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## Weekend

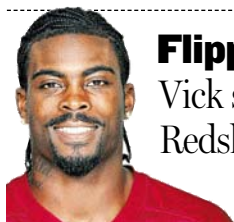


MIKE GULLETT/AP

A driver scrapes ice from his car in Missouri.

**The Big Freeze:** First major storm pummels the Midwest | **6**

**Spy Mystery:** FBI is joining British in probe of poisoning | **7**



**Flippin' Falcon:**  
Vick stands between Redskins and playoff longshot | **14**

### ENTERTAINMENT

**Like Jazz:**  
NBC's comedy 'The Office' thrives on improvisation. Plus, reviews of 'F---' and 'The Nativity Story.'

**>> 21-32**

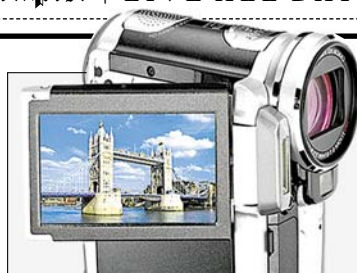


**Weather >> Heavy Storms**



**70 | 37**

FULL FORECAST ON PAGE 42



## GREAT GIZMOS

Cameras! Smartphones! Robots! **>> WEEKEND STYLES**



CAROL GUZYTWP

## Metro Worker Killed by Train

**SUPPORT:** Metro workers comfort each other at the scene of Thursday's deadly accident, in which an out-of-service Yellow Line train struck two employees working on the track at Eisenhower Avenue, killing one and seriously injuring the other. ♦ **Deadly year:** Death is second in past 12 months | **Page 11**

## Iraq Aims For June Takeover

**Bush endorses Maliki while rejecting calls for a pullout**

**AMMAN, JORDAN** | President Bush on Thursday rejected calls for a measured withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, even as Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, facing doubts about his ability to dampen violence, asserted his forces could take full control by June.

A day after publication of a leaked White House memo questioning al-Maliki's leadership capabilities, Bush shared a news conference stage with him and offered what sounded like unconditional support. "He's a strong leader," Bush said. "He's the right guy for Iraq."

Bush also used the news conference in the Jordanian capital to get in front of reports that a special committee headed by former Secretary of State James A. Baker III and former Democratic Rep. Lee Hamilton would call for a phased withdrawal of troops to begin.

"I know there's a lot of speculation that these reports in Washington mean there's going to be some kind of graceful exit out of Iraq," Bush said. But he said if there is talk of a timetable, "all that does is set people up for unrealistic expectations."

Al-Maliki, meanwhile, said in an ABC News interview that Iraqi forces would soon be able to take over security for the country, a position U.S. officials have questioned. **TOM RAUM (AP)**

**CUSTODY | Then, He Replied to the Ad** A father embroiled in a custody dispute posted a phony ad on the Internet offering to give away his 5-year-old boy to make his Pensacola, Fla., wife look bad, investigators said Wednesday. The



ad, written as if it were placed by the mother, listed the boy as "free to a good home." "I've had him now for five years. I've somewhat abused him, but I cannot control myself or him," the ad read. "I have mental problems." (EXPRESS) **EyeOpeners | Page 2**

# eyeOpeners

## THE ARMY

### Hey, Insurgents — FORE!

On paper, the U.S. Army was supposed to be getting "a ball bearing assortment" for \$1,409. It was bad enough that the order form marked up the price from \$682.50. But there was something about the order that was way out of bounds: It was for 420 golf balls for a civilian employee at the Army's Aberdeen Proving Ground in Baltimore. Douglas Atwell is now facing up to 15 years in prison after pleading guilty in federal court Wednesday to bribery in a scam to defraud the government. Atwell placed orders from 2003 to 2004 with co-defendant Wayne Silbersack, a salesman for Lawson Products. (AP)

## CHORES

### Vacuum the Burnt Mattress Ashes Now

A 12-year-old Peru, Ind., girl sick of doing chores set fire to her sleeping mother's bed Monday and took off in the family car to fake the abduction of herself and her two younger siblings, authorities said. "The mom had given



her a lot of duties," sheriff Ken Roland said. "It was too much for a 12-year-old and she snapped." Authorities looking for the girl, her 8-year-old brother and her 6-year-old sister later called her cell phone and talked her into stopping. (AP)



SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

## CIRCUSES

### The Mane Event

If you have dreams of your newborn child one day becoming a world-famous jockey, it's never too early to get him or her used to the saddle. Of course, you'll have to have access to Thumbelina, billed as the world's smallest horse by Guinness World Records. Thumbelina — standing back-stage with owner Michael Goessling at the Big Apple Circus, where she made a brief appearance Thursday in New York — weighs just 58 pounds and stands at 17.5 inches tall. (EXPRESS)



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## SMOKING

### Quit, or Be Fired

A man who has smoked for more than a decade filed a lawsuit Wednesday against The Scotts Co., alleging the lawn and garden company violated his privacy and civil rights when it fired him because he smokes. Scott Rodrigues, of Bourne, Mass., said he was fired after a drug test came up positive for nicotine. But he said he wasn't told he would be tested for the substance and was told the company would help him quit. (AP)



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**WHOLLY GUACAMOLE?** A Los Angeles woman is suing Kraft for fraud, claiming the company's guacamole doesn't qualify as the popular dip. The product contains less than 2 percent avocado, which is the traditional main ingredient.

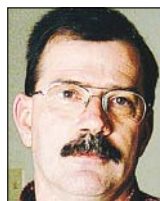
## Nation

### In Brief

LOUISVILLE, KY.

#### Mich. Man Recovering After Successful Hand Transplant

A Michigan man who lost his right hand in a work-related accident more than 30 years ago became the third successful hand transplant recipient in the United States, doctors said Thursday. David F. Savage was doing well the day after the surgery at Jewish Hospital in Louisville. Doctors said the transplant for Savage, 54, presented unusual challenges because of the length of time between losing his hand in a machine press and the surgery. The blood vessels leading to Savage's hand had shrunk because they were not in use, said Dr. Warren Breidenbach, the lead surgeon. (AP)



Savage

HACKENSACK, N.J.  
**Haagen-Dazs Founder Dies**  
Rose Mattus, who launched Haagen-Dazs ice cream with her husband, peddling the super-premium treat in grocery stores, has died. She was 90. Mattus died Tuesday, according to Gutterman-Musicant Funeral Directors in Hackensack. Mattus had been the controller of Haagen-Dazs Inc. Her husband, Reuben, died in 1994. Even though she had diabetes, Rose Mattus was a fan of her product, particularly vanilla, said her daughter Doris Mattus Hurley. (AP)

# Dems Cheer Iraq Panel's Proposals

## Commission to call for major withdrawal of U.S. troops in report

WASHINGTON | Democrats in Congress, encouraged that a special commission will recommend a major reduction of U.S. troops in Iraq, say its report next week will serve as a jumping-off point for pressing their case that a withdrawal should begin in 2007.

Plans beyond that are elusive

among members of the majority-in-waiting. Democrats are divided among themselves — and with President Bush — about how many troops to withdraw, when, and where to reassign them.

The report will also press for a greater shift in responsibility for the Iraq's security from American to Iraqi forces, according to an official familiar with the commission. It will also urge an openness to involvement by Syria and Iran in a diplomatic solution to problems in the region.

### Choosing Sides in Iraq

→ The Bush administration is debating whether to abandon reconciliation efforts with Sunni insurgents and give priority to Kurds and Shiites. | **Today, AI**

**IN The Washington Post**

On Thursday, Democrats made clear they liked the details being leaked about the forthcoming report from a panel led by former Secretary of State James A. Baker III and for-

mer Democratic Rep. Lee Hamilton of Indiana. And they warned Bush about the political peril of ignoring its recommendations.

"Sounds to me like they're going in the right direction," Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., said.

Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., said, "I hope that in the coming weeks the White House will engage in good-faith discussions about how to proceed that will seriously consider the ideas put forward by the study group, as well as other proposals." (AP)

SACRAMENTO, CALIF. | 20 STUDENTS INJURED IN BUS CRASH



**ON TOP OF THE SITUATION:** A highway patrol officer stands atop an overturned bus carrying University of California-Davis medical students in West Sacramento, Calif., Thursday. Twenty people suffered minor to moderate injuries..

## Feds Quietly Grade Travelers For Terror Risk

WASHINGTON | For the past four years, without public notice, federal agents have assigned millions of Americans and other international travelers computer-generated scores assessing the risk they pose of being terrorists or criminals.

The travelers are not allowed to see or directly challenge the assessments. The government intends to keep them on file for 40 years.

Earlier in November, the government disclosed the existence and details of the Automated Targeting System (ATS) for the first time in the Federal Register. Computers assess travel records, motor vehicle records, past one-way travel, seating preference and what kind of meals travelers are ordered to create scores. (AP)

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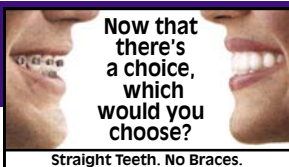
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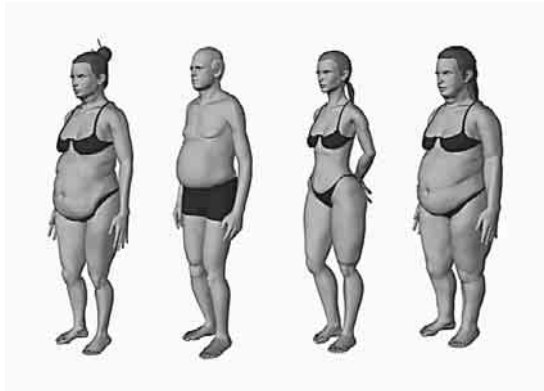
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Discover why your back treatments may have failed and a technology relatively new to the Washington, DC area that may provide a solution. For a free copy of the guide, call 1-800-357-5039 (Toll-free 24 Hour message) or www.DiscReportVA.com

Dr. Brad Wolf, D.C.

4 | EXPRESS | 12.01.2006 | FRIDAY

## Nation



Surrounded by some 500 supporters, Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack portrayed himself as a Washington outsider on Thursday while announcing his run for the White House.

## Vilsack Launches Bid for Presidency

Iowa gov. is the first Democrat to officially enter '08 campaign

MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA | Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack announced his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination Thursday, positioning himself as a Washington outsider with heartland appeal.

Vilsack also emphasized the nexus between oil dependence, national security and the economy, saying he would give high priority to weaning the nation off foreign oil and promoting alternative energy.

"Energy security will revitalize rural America," Vilsack told more than 500 cheering backers in the small town where he began his political career as mayor. "Energy security will allow us once and for all to remove and reduce our depen-

dency on foreign oil from foreign countries that do not like us."

Taking aim at President Bush, Vilsack said: "We have in the White House a president whose first impulse is to divide and to conquer, who preys on our insecurities and fears for partisan gain."

Instead, Vilsack, the first Democrat to formally enter the race, vowed to have "the courage to create change" and resist the "endless partisan debates."

In an era when voter unhappiness with corruption and partisan wrangling in Washington is especially high, political analysts said Vilsack is particularly well-positioned as a Midwestern governor to run for the White House as an outsider.

Nevertheless, Vilsack has a low profile outside Iowa and even he acknowledges his candidacy is a long shot. MIKE GLOVER (AP)

## Trainer Injured In Killer Whale Attack

SAN DIEGO | A killer whale that dragged a trainer underwater twice during a show at SeaWorld Adventure Park may be allowed to perform again, park officials said Thursday.

"Animals who have been involved in incidents like this in the past have been allowed to continue performing in the past," said SeaWorld spokesman Dave Koontz. "The

trainers will review the incident and make a determination."

Park trainers were examining the whale, Kasatka, trying to determine what made her grab her trainer. Ken Peters, 39, was "resting comfortably," Koontz said. Peters suffered a fractured metatarsal in his left foot but was otherwise in good spirits, Koontz said. (AP)



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## Nation

# Major Snowstorm Heads Eastward

Warm temperatures  
give way to wintry mix  
across Plains, Midwest

**KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI** | The first major snowstorm of the season blew across the Plains and Midwest on Thursday, grounding hundreds of flights, closing schools, glazing highways and threatening to dump up to a foot of snow on communities that had basked in balmy weather only days earlier.

The wintry weather spread across an area stretching from Texas and Oklahoma to Michigan, and a blizzard warning was posted in parts of Oklahoma.

The system roared through the Northwest and Rockies earlier in the week.

Coming on the heels of near-record high temperatures, it rolled through Kansas on Wednesday, coating tree limbs and power lines with half an inch of ice.

By Thursday, the storm was moving northeast from Oklahoma on the way to Illinois.

Sleet, snow and freezing rain forced the cancellation of 200



MIKE HUTMACHER/THE WICHITA EAGLE/AP

Wichita State University sent employees home early due to the heavy snow.

flights out of Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and closed some schools. In northern Texas, roads were covered with ice and up to 7 inches of snow.

An Oklahoma man was killed Thursday when his vehicle skidded out of control on an icy road and hit an oncoming tractor-trailer, police said. **DANA FIELDS (AP)**

# Japanese Scientists Discover New Quakes

‘Very low frequency’  
temblors are too slow  
to be felt by humans

**WASHINGTON** | Japanese researchers have discovered a new and sluggish kind of seismic activity that helps reveal the inner workings of faults capable of producing massive earthquakes like the one that generated the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

The so-called “very low frequency” earthquakes join two other types of slow quakes previously detected in the deep portion of subduction zones, where one section of the Earth’s crust dives under another. The new kind

of seismic activity can itself produce earthquakes of magnitudes 3 to 3.5, but the temblors are too slow to produce shaking felt by humans.

Researcher Yoshihiro Ito said the newfound activity, along with the two other phenomena — non-volcanic deep tremors and slow slip — may contribute to the build-up of stress in what are known as megathrust quake rupture zones.

Ito and colleagues from Japan’s National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention describe their work this week in Science Express, the online edition of the journal Science.

**ANDREW BRIDGES (AP)**



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**FILL 'ER UP:** Starbucks unveiled its first stores in Brazil, the world's top coffee-growing nation, on Thursday, hoping the shops will be a hit among fickle coffee drinkers used to paying a pittance for super-strong espresso. The chain opened two locations in Sao Paulo.

## World

# FBI Joins British Poisoning Probe

**Radiation detected at a dozen sites in U.K.; ex-prime minister ill**

LONDON | The FBI is joining the British probe into the poisoning death of a Kremlin critic, the agency announced Thursday as investigators found traces of radiation at a dozen sites in Britain and a former Russian prime minister reported symptoms consistent with poisoning.

British authorities requested the involvement of the FBI, agency spokesman Richard Kolko said. FBI

experts in weapons of mass destruction will assist with some of the scientific analysis, he said.

There is no suspected link to the U.S. in an investigation that extends to five airliners and locations from London to Moscow. Russian officials said radiation levels were normal on two suspect Russian jets.

Yegor Gaidar, who served briefly as prime minister in the 1990s under Russian President Boris Yeltsin, vomited and then fainted during a conference in Ireland on Nov. 24, a day after ex-KGB agent Alexander Litvinenko died of radiation poisoning. Doctors treating

Gaidar in Moscow believe he was also poisoned, said his spokesman, Valery Natarov.

While Litvinenko was a fierce critic of the Kremlin who during his waning hours blamed President Vladimir Putin for his poisoning, Gaidar, one of the leaders of a liberal opposition party, is a figure with little influence in today's Russia whose moderate criticism of the Kremlin has focused on eco-



Gaidar

nomic issues.

Gaidar's illness has added strands to a growing web of speculation in Russia over the death of Litvinenko and the Oct. 7 killing of investigative reporter Anna Politkovskaya. Some critics see the hand of hard-liners in the country's ruling elite, while Kremlin backers have suggested a murder plot by self-exiled tycoon Boris Berezovsky to blacken the government's reputation.

A dozen sites — including the planes — in Britain have showed traces of radioactivity, Home Secretary John Reid said. (AP)

## In Brief



Cars burn after an explosion at a checkpoint in Baidoa, Somalia, on Thursday.

### MOGADISHU, SOMALIA Suicide Car Bombings Kill 8 Outside of Government Base

A veiled woman and two other suicide bombers exploded cars outside the base of Somalia's weak government Thursday, killing eight people after Ethiopia took another step toward war with its Islamic rivals in the country. Somalia's interim government blamed foreign al-Qaeda fighters for the attack. Earlier Thursday, Ethiopia's parliament authorized military action if attacked by the Islamic movement that controls most of southern Somalia, which has declared holy war on Ethiopia over its troop incursions. (AP)

### AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS City Plans to Shut a Third Of Prostitution 'Windows'

The City of Amsterdam said Thursday it is shutting down nearly one-third of the 350 prostitution "windows" in the city's famed red light district, as part of a crackdown on crime in the area. The city said a 2003 law allowed it to deny or revoke prostitutes' licenses when it suspected operators would use them for money laundering or other illegal financial activity, the city said in a statement. (AP)

## Rice Seeks To Revive Peace Deal

**U.S. envoy urges Palestinians, Israelis to build on Gaza truce**

DEAD SEA, JORDAN | Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice tried to build momentum Thursday for a fragile cease-fire agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians, urging both sides to expand the peace deal beyond the Gaza territory.

But U.S. options were limited, as Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said he was finished negotiating with radical Islamic militants who assumed control of the Palestinian government in January. Abbas has been trying to create a new unity government that would lift an international aid boycott.

After a blitz of diplomatic meetings, Rice said she was still hopeful the small window of opportunity the cease-fire afforded could be expanded into a long-lasting peace agreement.

Rice met briefly with Abbas in the West Bank town of Jericho before driving to Jerusalem to meet separately with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni. (AP)



**NEW TIES:** Pope Benedict XVI, left, accompanied by Muslim clerics and other prelates, visits the famed Blue Mosque in Istanbul.

## Pope Prays at Turkey's Blue Mosque

**Stop marks second papal visit ever to a Muslim worship place**

ISTANBUL, TURKEY | Pope Benedict XVI joined an Islamic cleric in prayers under the towering dome of Istanbul's most famous mosque Thursday in a powerful gesture seeking to transform his image among Muslims from adversary to peacemaker.

The pope's minute of prayer was done in silence, but the message of

reconciliation was designed to resonate loudly nearly three months after he provoked worldwide fury for remarks on violence and the Prophet Muhammad.

"This visit will help us find together the way of peace for the good of all humanity," the pope said inside the 17th-century Blue Mosque — in only the second papal visit in history to a Muslim place of worship. Benedict's predecessor, John Paul II, made a brief stop in a mosque in Syria in 2001.

Benedict's steps through a stone

archway and into the mosque capped a day of deep symbolism and lofty goals. Hours earlier, he stood beside the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians and passionately encouraged steps to end the nearly 1,000-year divide between their churches.

The pope walked to the mosque after touring another majestic tribute to faith: the 1,500-year-old Hagia Sofia, remarkable for its legacy as a marvel of early Christianity and then a coveted prize of Islam's expansion. BRIAN MURPHY (AP)

### LONDON BBC: Inquiry Into Diana's Death to Be Released Dec. 14

The official report into the death of Princess Diana — which is widely expected to conclude that the 1997 Paris car crash that killed her was an accident — will be published Dec. 14, the British Broadcasting Corp. reported Thursday. The report is the result of a three-year inquiry into the crash by former Metropolitan Police chief Lord Stevens. (AP)



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39

The percentage of Spanish university students who said immigration is good, down from 47.9 percent three years ago, a poll finds. Some 15 percent felt immigration was a bad thing.

## World

# Call for Lebanon Protests

## Hezbollah urges mass anti-government demonstrations Friday

BEIRUT, LEBANON | Hezbollah and its pro-Syrian allies launched a long-threatened campaign to topple Lebanon's U.S.-backed government, calling for mass demonstration Friday followed by a wave of open-ended protests.

A defiant Prime Minister Fuad Saniora vowed his government would not fall, warning in a nationally televised speech Thursday night that "Lebanon's independence is threatened and its democratic system is in danger."

The call for protests threatens to throw a political power struggle between pro- and anti-Syrian factions into a violent showdown in sharply divided Lebanon.

Government supporters accuse Syria of being behind the Hezbollah-led protests, trying to regain its lost influence in its smaller neighbor. Hezbollah and its allies, in turn, say the country has fallen under U.S. domination and that they have been squeezed out of a rightful portion of power.

Fears were high that Friday's protest could turn into street clashes between the two sides or



**WATCHFUL EYE:** A Lebanese soldier stands guard in front of the Government Palace in Beirut on Thursday. Security is tight amid calls for mass street protests Friday.

### Future in the Balance

→ The call by Hezbollah's leader for a protest and open-ended sit-in marks the sharpest escalation yet in a crisis that may decide the direction of Lebanese politics for years to come. | **Today, A Section**

**IN The Washington Post**

that Hezbollah supporters could try to storm Saniora's government complex in downtown Beirut. Lebanese security forces have deployed troops, barbed wire and armored vehicles outside the offices for days.

Hezbollah's leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, called for Friday's protest to be peaceful. From the other camp, the head of the anti-Syrian bloc in parliament, Saad Hariri, said his supporters should not hold counter-demonstrations.

Lebanon's power struggle pits opponents of Syria against its allies. Tensions are high on both sides after a string of assassinations of anti-Syrian figures over the past two years, including a prominent Christian government minister gunned down last week. (AP)

# Chavez: Pre-Election Attack Foiled

## Venezuelan leader says plot against opponent thwarted ahead of vote

CARACAS, VENEZUELA | Venezuelan authorities have foiled a plot for a sniper attack on the opposition's leading presidential candidate ahead of this Sunday's election, President Hugo Chavez said Thursday.

Chavez said a group of "fascist" radicals had been plotting to use a rifle with a telescopic sight to shoot at Manuel Rosales during a speech in order to blame it on Chavez's government in an attempt to derail the vote.

Chavez said authorities had



Recent polls have given President Hugo Chavez the lead in Sunday's election.

seized the weapon from a vehicle, but he didn't say whether anyone was detained.

But Rosales' campaign denied any knowledge of such an incident.

"This is a smoke screen. It's to manipulate the people, but nobody

believes that," said Timoteo Zambrano, one of Rosales' campaign managers.

Chavez also urged his enemies to respect the result of Sunday's vote, saying an upset would be impossible.

Chavez spoke to reporters on the final day of campaigning, a day after Rosales urged the government to stick to the rules in the vote.

Venezuela has become increasingly polarized along class lines, with the wealthier supporting Rosales, the poor backing Chavez and a fractured middle class.

Shoppers are packing supermarkets to stock up on supplies, fearful that Sunday's outcome could prompt street protests and violence. (AP)

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## World



**YOUR LEAD:** Some former Canadian leaders are trying to inspire young, civic-minded types on a new reality TV show. Ex-Prime Ministers Brian Mulroney, John Turner, Joe Clark and Kim Campbell will be judges on the CBC's "The Next Great Prime Minister."

# Sudan Rejects U.N. Troops Anew

**AU extends mandate to patrol Darfur region for another 6 months**

ABUJA, NIGERIA | Sudan's president rejected a proposal Thursday to send U.N. peacekeepers to Darfur to boost a beleaguered 7,000-member African Union force, crushing hopes for a quick solution to the violence spreading across central Africa.

Sudan, the U.N. and the AU earlier agreed to a hybrid mission. But there was confusion over the details, with some Sudanese officials saying they only want U.N. support in the form of finance and logistics, not the replacement U.N. troops foreseen in

a Security Council resolution.

Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, speaking after a closed-door AU summit, rebuffed African leaders advocating a compromise proposal for an expanded peace-keeping mission that would include U.N. soldiers inside Darfur.

"We can take technical, advisory and financial support from the U.N., but no U.N. force," al-Bashir said. "We want an Africa force."

African leaders, however, extended the mandate of the AU force deployed in Darfur by six months, the AU's peace and security commissioner Said Djinnit told reporters. The mission's mandate was set to expire Dec. 31.

DULUE MBACHU (AP)

**INDIA** | LIGHTING THE WAY FOR WORLD AIDS DAY



**REMEMBRANCE:** A woman lights candles on Thursday in the shape of a symbolic AIDS ribbon during a candlelight vigil in New Delhi, India, ahead of World AIDS Day on Friday. This year's theme for World AIDS Day is "accountability" and is designed to inspire citizens to hold their leaders accountable for the promises they have made in the fight against AIDS.

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**GO, ARMY:** The Army agreed Thursday to move a planned national Army museum after criticism from Fairfax, Va., officials about the location. The Army now plans to locate the National Museum of the U.S. Army near the county's Route 1 corridor.

## Local

# Metrorail Train Kills Track Worker

Another critically hurt in accident, the second such fatal one this year

ALEXANDRIA, VA. | An out-of-service Metrorail train struck two workers Thursday, killing one and critically injuring the other, officials said.

It was the second death among workers in the area's transit system this year and the 14th in Metro's

30-year history.

The accident occurred about 9:30 a.m. on an elevated section of track between the Huntington and Eisenhower Avenue stations on the Yellow Line. The train involved had no passengers on board and was headed to a rail yard in Alexandria.

Metro identified the worker who died as Leslie A. Cherry, a 29-year employee from Maryland. The injured employee began working

for the transit system in April.

The two employees were "track walkers" and were doing routine inspections, Metro said. Mark Rosenker, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, said the workers knew they were on an active track.

Both the NTSB and Metro were investigating.

"Obviously, something terrible has gone wrong," said Jack

Requa, acting general manager of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

Rosenker said investigators retrieved the train's vehicle monitoring system, which he compared to an airplane's flight data recorder.

MATTHEW BARAKAT (AP)

**Federal response:** NTSB officials give Metro harsh rebuke after "unacceptable" accident. **Today's Post,**

## The Lotteries

Thursday, November 30

### DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	<b>0-8-7</b>
Evening Lucky Numbers (Wed.)	<b>6-9-6</b>
Mid-day DC 4	<b>4-7-2-3</b>
Evening DC 4 (Wed.)	<b>6-3-8-0</b>
Rolling Cash Five (Wed.)	<b>1-12-17-19-28</b>
Daily 6 (Wed.)	<b>17-29-20-23-26-36 (5)</b>
Hot Lotto (Wed.)	<b>10-21-27-32-37 (1)</b>

### MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	<b>6-9-7</b>
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	<b>8-6-6</b>
Mid-day Pick 4	<b>5-1-7-3</b>
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	<b>5-6-2-1</b>
Match 5 (Wed.)	<b>14-15-24-26-39 (18)</b>
Multi-Match (Wed.)	<b>5-8-30-32-33-39</b>

### VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3	<b>3-9-0</b>
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	<b>1-6-8</b>
Mid-day Pick 4	<b>7-4-5-5</b>
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	<b>2-1-5-1</b>
Mid-day Cash 5	<b>2-4-15-16-30</b>
Evening Cash 5 (Wed.)	<b>3-14-20-26-31</b>
Win For Life (Wed.)	<b>6-21-23-24-25-34 (12)</b>

### MULTI-STATE GAMES

Powerball (Wed.)	<b>2-8-9-12-19 (25)</b>
Power Play	<b>x3</b>

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.



**BY THE NUMBERS:** House of Blues is negotiating to build a \$120 million complex near the Washington Convention Center. (AP)

# Ghost of Christmas Past at Bushes'

White House returns to a traditional look for 24 holiday parties

WASHINGTON | A year after experimenting with fresh flower decorations, the White House is returning to a more traditional Christmas look for its 24 holiday parties.

First lady Laura Bush said the White House's Red Room was the inspiration for the 2006 holiday theme — "Deck the Halls and Welcome All." Almost 300 wreaths are on display, in addition to poinsettias, topiaries and a variety of garlands adorned with red and silver Christmas balls.



A portrait of Abraham Lincoln in the East Room is surrounded Thursday by holiday decorations as first lady Laura Bush previewed the 2006 holiday decorations.

"This is a beautiful old house to decorate for Christmas, and since red is one of the predominant colors it really is perfect for Christmas decorations," she said while standing in front of the traditional 300-pound gingerbread White House on display in the State Dining Room.

The State Floor's centerpiece is a Douglas fir covered in glass and crystal ornaments — some tied up with red ribbons — as well as a smattering of fake snow. The first lady pointed out that the Blue Room's chandelier was removed to secure the 18-foot, 6-inch tree.

She said the first family had decorated a private tree with ornaments brought from Texas. They also have a collection of nativity scenes the first lady has collected from around the world. NATASHA T. METZLER (AP)

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# Money

## 401(k) Plan Fees Not Always Clear

GAO report calls for better rules on how charges are disclosed

WASHINGTON | Participants in 401(k) plans may be losing thousands of dollars in retirement savings because of sponsor fees, a report said Thursday, in urging investors be given a clearer picture of the fees they pay.

Current retirement savings law, passed in 1974, does not explicitly require 401(k) plan sponsors to disclose comprehensive information on fees, the Government Accountability Office said.

The GAO gave as an example a 45-year-old person who leaves \$20,000 in a 401(k) account until retirement. If the average net return is 6.5 percent — a 7 percent investment return minus a 0.5 percent charge for fees — the account will grow to \$70,500 at retirement. But if the fee is 1.5 percent, the person

will have only \$58,400 when he retires.

The report said Congress should consider amending current law to require sponsors to disclose fee information in a way that allows investors to compare options. The Department of Labor, it said, should require plan sponsors to report a summary of all fees paid out of plan assets or by participants.

Investment fees make up the bulk of charges in 401(k) plans, but some plans also charge for record-keeping and other costs.

The report also urged a closer look at conflict-of-interest problems that arise because pension consultants aren't required to disclose that they are being paid by investment companies that they are recommending to plan sponsors.

The report noted that in the past 20 years, 401(k) plan members have gone from 8 million to 47 million, and assets in these plans have grown to more than \$2 trillion. (AP)

## In Brief

### NEW YORK Wal-Mart Predicts Slim Sales Gains in December

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. issued a sobering warning for the U.S. holiday shopping season Thursday, predicting its December same-store sales gain would be no better than 1 percent. The news, coupled with Wal-Mart's announcement that it suffered its first same-store decline in more than 10 years during November, came as the nation's retailers reported an overall mixed sales performance for the month. Wal-Mart has struggled in recent months on a mix of problems, including that its lower-income customers were hurt by soaring gas prices. (AP)

### NEW YORK Microsoft Rolls Out New Vista Operating System

Microsoft Corp. launched its first new computer operating system in five years Thursday, saying that despite delays, the product's emergence is perfectly timed for PC users who increasingly need to coordinate information from a dizzying array of sources. Businesses that buy Windows licenses in bulk have first crack at PCs with the new operating system or at upgrade discs for installing Vista on existing machines. Consumers will not be able to get Vista on home PCs until Jan. 30. (AP)



**POUNDED:** The pound hit a 14-year high against the dollar Thursday, providing a boon for British tourists in the U.S. but raising fears for exporters as analysts predict a further slump in the U.S. currency. The pound hit US\$1.9696, its strongest showing against the dollar since September 1992, when Britain left the European Exchange Rate Mechanism. (AP)

## Market Action

### New York Stock Exchange

#### Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
DSW Inc	38.30	+4.59	+13.6
Mediast	13.05	+1.44	+12.4
RetailVent	19.03	+1.97	+11.5
vjGrace	18.37	+1.85	+11.2
StdPac	25.66	+2.40	+10.3

#### Losers

ChrisBnk	18.79	-1.54	-7.6
FstFinFd	17.10	-1.10	-6.0
HancFab	3.19	-1.19	-5.6
Pengrthg	17.04	-.96	-5.3
OffcDpt	37.86	-1.93	-4.9

### NASDAQ Stock Market

#### Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
DurectCp	4.68	+.88	+23.2
AbngtnCm	19.48	+3.60	+22.7
RandCap	3.94	+.71	+22.0
Bsquare	2.86	+.51	+21.7
Iomai n	5.09	...	...

#### Losers

SelCmfrt s	17.28	-3.71	-17.7
WirRonin n	5.92	-1.26	-17.5
HlterTch	2.18	-.46	-17.4
SCO Grp	2.00	-.40	-16.7
XetaTech	3.43	-.57	-14.3

### Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	8.25	8.25
Fed Funds close	5.3125	5.25
3-month disc	4.90	4.93
2-year	4.62	4.75
10-year	4.46	4.56
30-year	4.56	4.65

### Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5086	.5138	.5784
Canadian Dollar	1.1420	1.1380	1.1645
European Euro	.7547	.7601	.8481
Japanese Yen	115.75	116.31	119.81
Mexican Peso	10.9757	11.0108	10.5510
Taiwanese Dollar	32.37	32.50	33.47

DOW	NASDAQ	S&P 500
-4.80	-0.46	+1.15
-0.04	-0.02	+0.08
12221.93	2431.77	1400.63

### Pharmacy Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
AbtLab	46.66	-.11	+18.3
Allergan	116.58	-1.56	+8.0
AstraZen	57.89	-.67	+19.1
BarrPhm	51.08	+.87	-18.0
BrMySq	24.83	+.04	+8.1
ForestLab	48.70	-.40	+19.7
Hospira	32.80	-.18	-23.3
IvaxCorp	25.98	...	-17.1
JohnJn	65.91	-.29	+9.7
LillyEli	53.59	-.45	-5.3
Merck	44.51	-.05	+39.9
Pfizer	27.49	+.42	+17.9
SchergPl	22.01	+.18	+5.6
Sepracor	55.64	-.80	+7.8
Wyeth	48.28	+.19	+4.8

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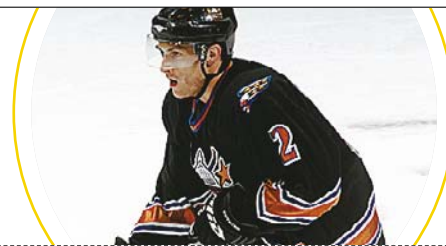
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# Weekend <sup>Sports</sup>

## CAPITALS

**New Addition:** Brian Pothier left the playoff-bound Senators to join the porous Washington defense. But he's loving every minute. | 20



## TV Lineup



Caron Butler scores the go-ahead basket vs. the Hawks while getting fouled.

→ **STREAKING?** The Wizards are looking to start a win streak Friday when they host the Bobcats (7 p.m. on CSN) and Saturday (8:30 p.m. on CW) when they visit the struggling Bulls.

→ **YOUNG BLOOD:** Sunday's NFL coverage features some of the game's youngest QBs.



Romo

Joey Harrington and the Dolphins visit David Garrard and the Jaguars (4:15 p.m. on CBS). And Tony Romo and the Cowboys battle

Eli Manning and the Giants (4:15 p.m. on FOX). The finale stars veteran Matt Hasselbeck and the Seahawks and Jay Cutler starting his first game for the Broncos (8:15 p.m. on NBC).

→ **TURN AROUND:** The month of November was not a good one for the Capitals, only winning five games. But they can start a stronger push for December when they host the Eastern Conference leading Buffalo Sabres on Saturday (8 p.m. on CSN).

→ **DOWN TO THIS:** Saturday, No. 16 Wake Forest and No. 23 Georgia Tech battle in the ACC title game (1 p.m. on ABC), while the only thing preventing No. 2 USC from playing for the national championship is its game with UCLA (4:30 p.m. on ABC). The evening begins with the SEC Championship (6 p.m. on CBS) featuring No. 8 Arkansas and No. 4 Florida and finishes with the Big 12 Championship game pitting No. 19 Nebraska against No. 8 Oklahoma.

# Slick Vick

Before the Redskins can think playoffs, they must get by the Falcons

REDSKINS | Playing on the Redskins' defense is starting to look a little like being on "The Surreal Life," sans Flava Flav.

First, they lose five of six games to get bounced out of the playoff picture. Next, ESPN the Magazine comes out with a story in which someone squeals about how arrogant the coaching staff supposedly is. Then — despite the suggested lack of coaching — the defense executes a good game plan and holds the potential NFC South champions to 13 points in a victory.



Throw in some surprise losses by front-running NFC squads, and the locals are whispering about Washington running the table again.

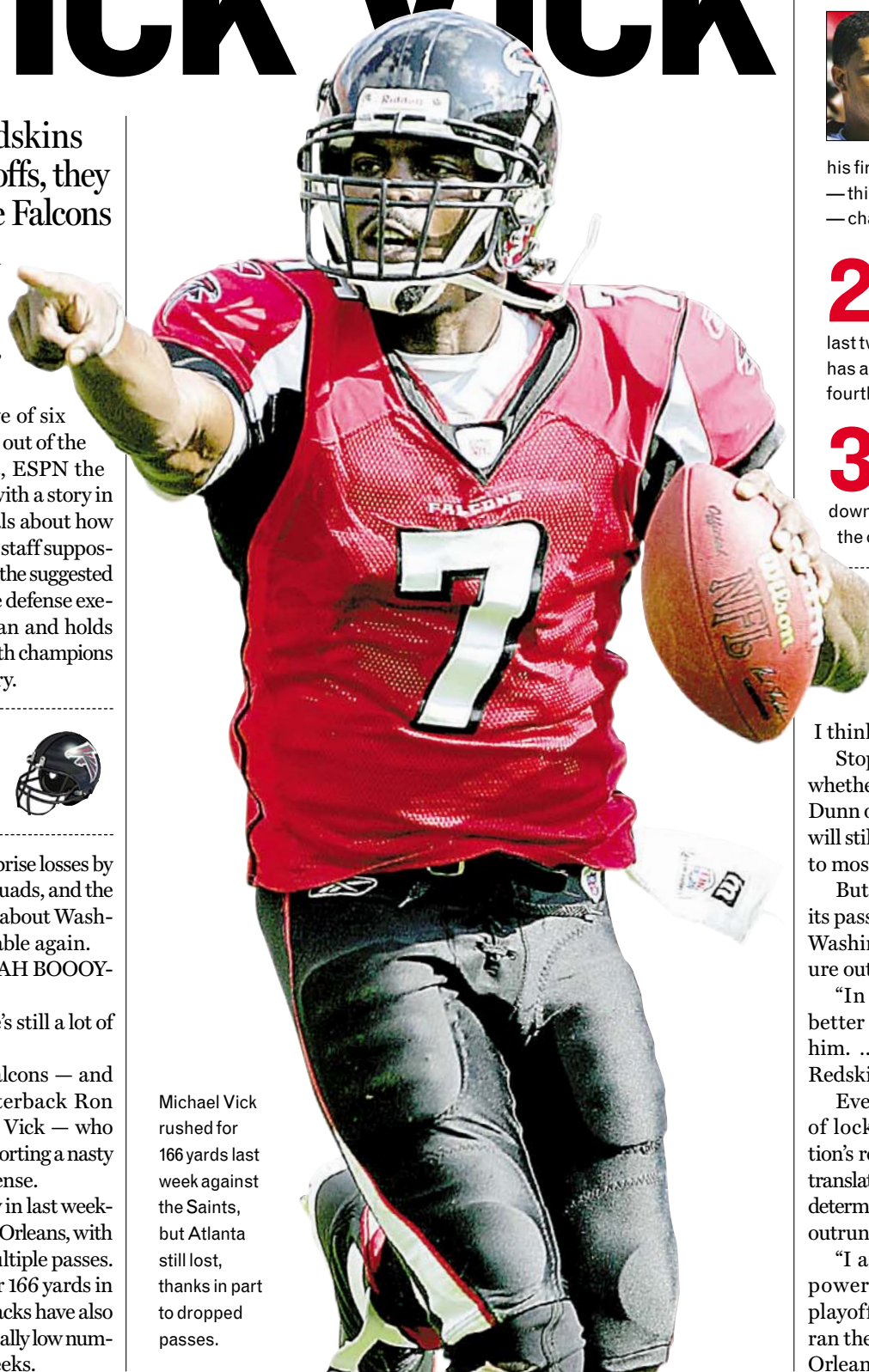
Cause for a "YEEEEAH BOOOY-EEEE!"?

Maybe later. There's still a lot of work to do.

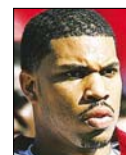
Next up are the Falcons — and finger-flippin' quarterback Ron Mexico ... er, Michael Vick — who come to FedEx Field sporting a nasty case of bird flu on offense.

Atlanta looked ugly in last week-end's 31-13 loss to New Orleans, with receivers dropping multiple passes. And while Vick ran for 166 yards in the loss, the Falcons' backs have also put up uncharacteristically low numbers in the last few weeks.

Michael Vick rushed for 166 yards last week against the Saints, but Atlanta still lost, thanks in part to dropped passes.



## Three Burning QUESTIONS



### Jason Campbell: King of Cool?

Washington's rookie QB has looked poised in his first two games. Will Atlanta — third in the NFC with 29 sacks — change that?

## 2

### More turnovers?

Washington's forced a pair of turnovers in each of the last two games. However, Atlanta has a plus-six turnover margin — fourth-best in the NFC.

## 3

### Birds cooked in red zone?

Atlanta is second-worst in the NFL with just 13 touchdowns in 36 possessions inside the opponents' 20.

"We've played some 'Bad News Bears' football," Atlanta tailback Warrick Dunn said. "Our identity is running the football, and I think we got away from that."

Stopping the running game — whether its traditional handoffs to Dunn or crazy scrambles by Vick — will still be priority No. 1, according to most Redskins defenders.

But if Atlanta (5-6) stays with its pass-and-scramble philosophy, Washington (4-7) will have to figure out a way to stop Vick.

"In most cases, he's so much better than the guy who's spying him. ... He just makes plays," said Redskins safety Troy Vincent.

Even a second straight week of locking down on the opposition's receivers won't automatically translate into stops, since Vick seems determined to pull the ball down and outrun his team's shortcomings.

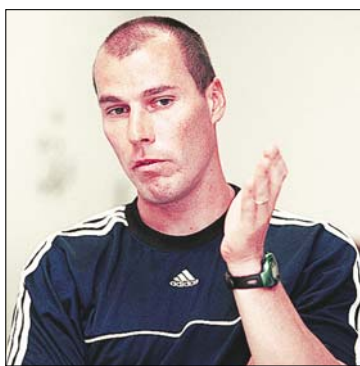
"I am trying everything in my power to prevent [missing the playoffs]," he said. "That's why I ran the ball so much [against New Orleans]." ERIC BRANDNER



**OLYMPICS | Don't Eat the Pork Fried Rice** A senior Chinese official has warned that athletes competing in the 2008 Beijing Olympics could test positive for drugs after eating in local restaurants. Chinese doping experts have warned that some Chinese food is so contaminated with anabolic steroids that athletes who eat it could later fail drug tests. Chinese farmers regularly give steroids to their livestock to get better prices for larger animals. Surveillance will be installed to monitor the food coming into the Olympic Village. (AP)



# Waiting for His Chance



Virginia soccer coach George Gelnovatch will lead his team against UCLA.

## Va. to Face UCLA in Semifinals

**COLLEGE SOCCER** | The Virginia men's soccer team is back in the NCAA College Cup final four for the first time in nine years, a long wait for a program that became the sport's most prominent by winning five national titles in six years (1989-1994).

The fourth-seeded Cavaliers (17-3-1) face long-time power UCLA in Friday's first semifinal in St. Louis. The rematch of the 1997 NCAA final that the Bruins won will be televised live at 6 p.m. Friday on ESPN2, and the winner takes either second-seeded Wake Forest or UC Santa Barbara in Sunday's final.

Virginia is led by sophomore Yannick Reyring (12 goals) and senior Adam Cristman (10) and will look to keep the College Cup title in the ACC. Maryland won its second title last season but was knocked out by Notre Dame in the

With Portis injured, Duckett looks to prove his worth vs. old team

**REDSKINS** | After hearing all the trade rumors during training camp, T.J. Duckett was relieved when the Atlanta Falcons finally dealt him to the Washington Redskins.

Little did he know that life with the Redskins would turn into another long state of uncertainty.

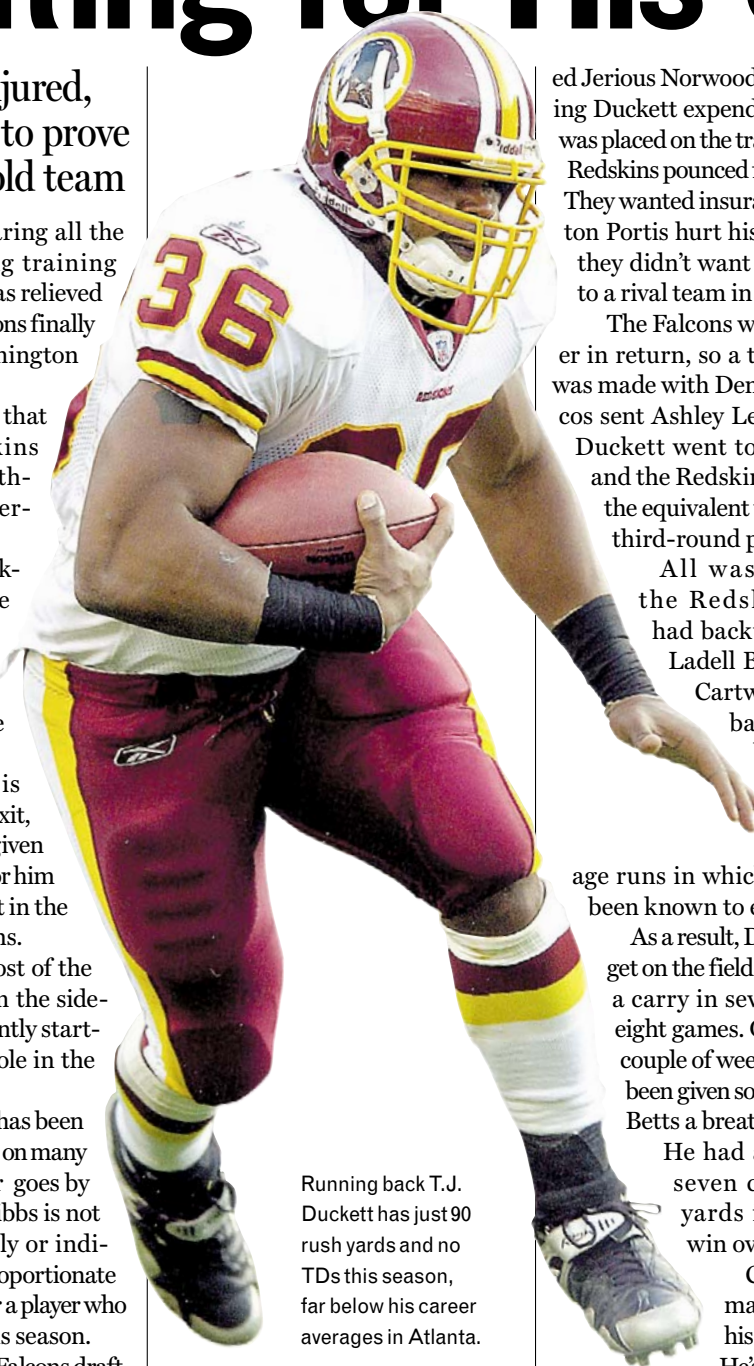
"It's similar," Duckett said Thursday as he sat at his locker. "But after going through what I went through there, it prepared me for this."

Duckett's locker is the one closest to the exit, which is appropriate given how long it has taken for him to get a proverbial foot in the door with the Redskins.

After spending most of the season watching from the sidelines, he has only recently started to play a regular role in the offense.

The Duckett trade has been a complex development on many levels, as a week never goes by in which coach Joe Gibbs is not asked about it directly or indirectly, creating a disproportionate amount of attention for a player who has only 19 carries this season.

It started when the Falcons draft-



Running back T.J. Duckett has just 90 rush yards and no TDs this season, far below his career averages in Atlanta.

ed Jerious Norwood in April, making Duckett expendable. When he was placed on the trading block, the Redskins pounced for two reasons: They wanted insurance after Clinton Portis hurt his shoulder, and they didn't want Duckett going to a rival team in the NFC.

The Falcons wanted a receiver in return, so a three-way deal was made with Denver. The Broncos sent Ashley Lelie to Atlanta, Duckett went to Washington, and the Redskins gave Denver the equivalent value of a 2007 third-round pick.

All was fine except the Redskins already had backups for Portis.

Ladell Betts and Rock Cartwright are solid backs, and full-back Mike Sellers handles the short yardage runs in which Duckett has been known to excel.

As a result, Duckett couldn't get on the field. He didn't have a carry in seven of the first eight games. Only in the last couple of weeks has Duckett been given some work to give Betts a breather.

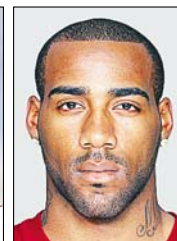
He had a season-high seven carries for 24 yards in last week's win over Carolina.

Complicating matters for T.J. is his contract status. He's due to be a free

### HEAD TO HEAD



SANTANA MOSS



DEANGELO HALL

→ Can the Redskins' top wide receiver have a big game against one of the NFL's premier corners?

Moss and Hall are basically the same size and have the same speed. So for Moss to succeed against the Falcons' interception leader, he must use his veteran smarts against the young Hall. In past weeks, Hall has gotten burned for big plays by making careless mistakes. If Santana can get DeAngelo to do the same thing this week and play too aggressively, he may be able to sneak by and make a big play.

agent at the end of the season. The 2002 first-round draft pick ran for 2,175 yards and scored 31 touchdowns over four seasons with the Falcons, but has only 90 yards rushing and no TDs this season.

But Duckett hasn't griped about his playing time.

"This is a guy who, when his back is against the wall, doesn't come out verbally," said Atlanta running back Warrick Dunn. "He just waits his time and is patient." JOSEPH WHITE (AP)

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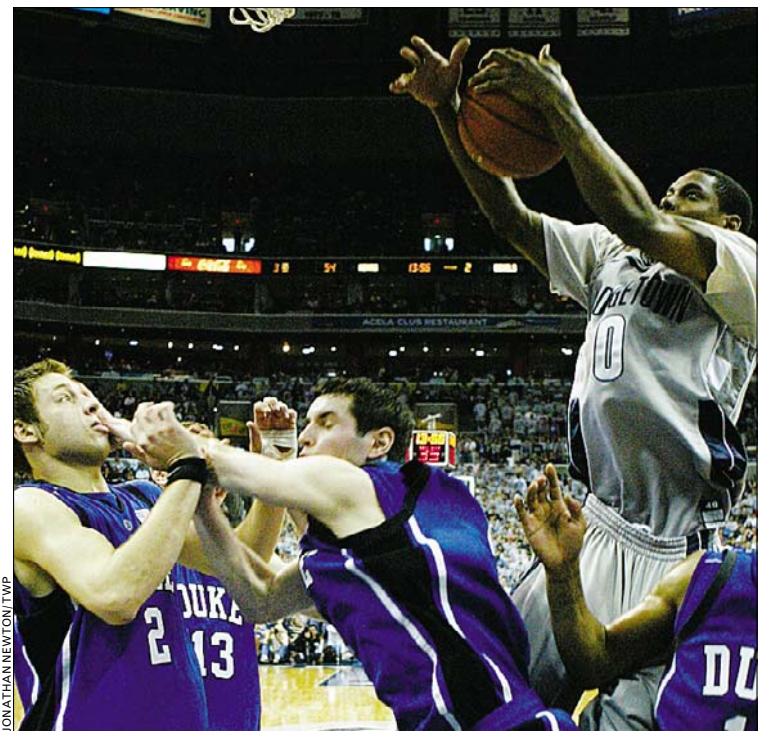
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Georgetown's Ashanti Cook grabs a rebound during last season's upset of the No. 1 squad. Cook, who graduated, will not be around to help the struggling Hoyas this year.

## Hoyas Youth Is Still Settling In

### Georgetown struggling but not panicking after 2 early-season losses

**HOYAS HOOPS** | When coach John Thompson III first started talking about baby steps with his Georgetown basketball team, he probably didn't mean it quite as literally as it's played out.

With only three key players returning from last year's squad, which defeated then-No. 1 Duke and went on to the Sweet 16, the No. 18 Hoyas are struggling as they head to Cameron Indoor Stadium Saturday night for a rematch with the No. 11 Blue Devils (6-1).

Ranked No. 8 in preseason polls, Georgetown is in danger of falling out of the top 25 following an opening month that included upset losses to Old Dominion on Nov. 19 and Oregon Wednesday at Verizon Center.

"We're tentative, we're unsure, we are growing," said Thompson after the 57-50 loss. "We're a young team. I knew we had a long way to go. I thought we would work through it without the losses."

The Hoyas (4-2) were expected to ride star juniors Jonathan Wallace, Jeff Green and Roy Hibbert to the same sort of success experienced under Thompson's father.

Instead, the absence of last year's senior guards Ashanti Cook and Brandon Bowman is looming larger than many imagined on a team with seven players who are either freshmen or sophomores.

"They're going to be really good once the guards settle down and get some games under their belt," said Oregon coach Ernie Kent, whose team lost at home to Georgetown last year.

As they wait for their youngsters to gain experience, the Hoyas' "Princeton" offense is hardly working. The team committed 17 turnovers Wednesday while Hibbert and Green combined for nine points. Wallace, for his part, led all scorers with 17 points.

Wallace, like Thompson, isn't panicking on the young season.

"I feel very confident," said Wallace. "It's November. Guys are going to have to step up and learn the ropes quickly."

MATT SWENSON (EXPRESS)



## Swengali

WIZARDS | BY MATT SWENSON

### Wizards Off to A Familiar Start

**CALL IT NOSTALGIA** following a 10-year high school reunion, but it seems like old times in Washington.

Wearing burgundy pants, the Redskins won a game by running the ball and playing good defense.

On the opposite side of the spectrum, one of our other favorite local teams is on pace for the same 9-20 record we know and love. I'll give you a hint: Right now, they're firing blanks, especially on the road.

Luckily for the former Bullets, that 5-9 start (0-7 away from Verizon Center) isn't going to hurt their playoff chances. The Eastern Conference is beyond bad right now. My beloved Bethesda-Chevy Chase Barons could make a run at the post-season at this rate.

Of more concern is star point guard Gilbert Arenas' excuses for the lousy play. Instead of taking the

blame himself for not shooting well, Arenas thinks the referees are at fault. "At the end of the day, I don't think they are calling the game the same way they called it last year," he told The Washington Post.

Give me a break. Twice this year, Arenas — a genuine All-Star — has scored fewer than 10 points in a game. He's also averaging almost

**The team needs to focus on its own deficiencies ... before worrying about the zebras.**

four turnovers per game, nullifying about two-thirds of his 6.5 assists per contest.

The team needs to focus on its own deficiencies — defense is still nonexistent — before worrying about the zebras.

The calls will come, just as soon as the shots start to fall. It's funny how that works out.



To reach Matt Swenson, e-mail [matt.swenson@readexpress.com](mailto:matt.swenson@readexpress.com)

# Defensive Struggle

Even after summer of emphasis, high-scoring games plague Wizards

**WIZARDS** | It came like a chorus of planned responses from the Verizon Center all offseason.

"We have to play defense," Wizards guard Gilbert Arenas said. "We know that. We have to become a better defensive team."

Or as Etan Thomas put it: "Coach has made it very clear that that's going to be a point of emphasis this year."

"Defensively, we don't have to be top five, but we have to be in the middle of the pack as far as letting our opponents score," Antawn Jamison added.

The players knew from Day One that allowing 99.8 points per game (the ninth worst average in the NBA last year) was not going to cut it for a team that openly said it wanted to make the Eastern Conference finals.

So the obvious question to the



Antawn Jamison, right, contests the shot of Austin Croshere last week.

casual observer is: What happened?

This team that put a point of emphasis on stopping teams defensively is now giving up 101.9 points per game, which is better than just four teams in the NBA. They are worse than last year and

are nowhere near the middle of the pack.

In a lot of ways, though, this Wizards team isn't set up to be a team that limits scoring. They run the floor well and they average more than 19 fast-break points per game. More fast-breaks mean more possessions and, eventually, more scoring — for both teams.

They're doing a decent job protecting the rim, especially recently, and have allowed opponents to shoot over 42 percent from the floor just once in the last five games.

"All we need is a shot here or a call there and we're winning these games," Caron Butler said after last week's loss to the Rockets. "Tonight, we played good defense, and we've overcome a lot of adversity. We can grow on this."

IAN HERBERT (EXPRESS)



**State of the Team:** A look at why the Wizards are four games below .500 this season | Today's Post, Sports

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# Weekend Sports

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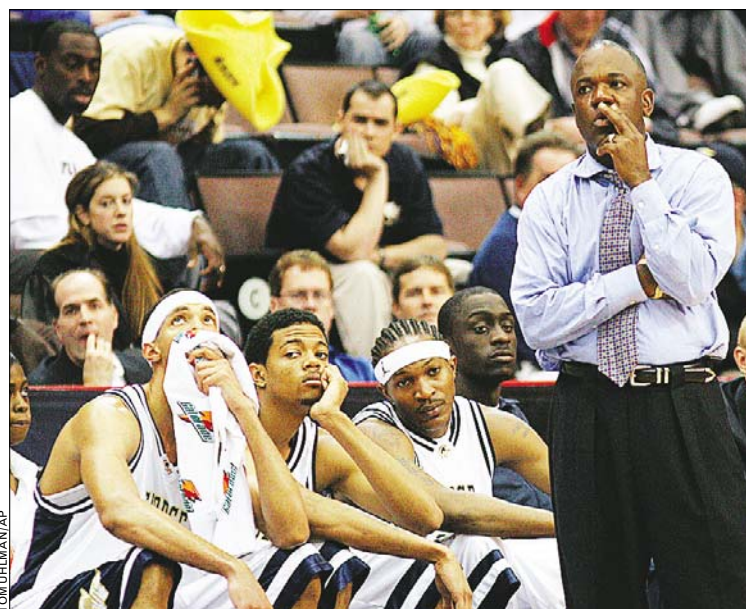
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George Washington coach Karl Hobbs, right, watches with his players as his team loses for just the second time all year last year in the Atlantic-10 Tournament.

## Tough Year for Buff and Blue

### With young squad, GW is still hoping to return to tournament

**COLONIALS HOOPS** | As the Colonials hit the court for their 2006-2007 campaign, many of the familiar faces that led George Washington to a program-best 27-3 record are nowhere to be seen around Foggy Bottom.

Three standout starters, Pops Mensah-Bonsu, Mike Hall and Omar Williams, graduated and junior star forward Danilo Pinnock left early for the NBA Draft, leaving the Colonials with just one starter from last year's team.

So that's why coach Karl Hobbs understands that his team's goals — to defend their Atlantic-10 title and make it to their third straight NCAA tournament — are not going to be easy.

"Defending our A-10 title will be extremely difficult this year as the conference is the most competitive it's ever been since I have been coaching at GW," he said. "Most of the programs have everyone back and their veteran squads will provide a challenge for our young team."

Nevertheless, Hobbs believes in his young team, especially under the

veteran leadership of starting point guard, senior Carl Elliott.

Elliott, the Colonials leading scorer this season at 15.6 points per game, says that both his play and leadership have changed greatly. This season he has become more vocal with the young Colonials squad and more aggressive on the court.

"I have had to step up my game, and, being one of the only seniors

### LOCAL HOOPS HEAVEN

The BB&T Classic is this Sunday at Verizon Center, featuring a trio of local games:

- George Mason vs. Bucknell at 1:30 p.m.
- George Washington vs. Virginia Tech at 4 p.m.
- No. 23 Maryland vs. Notre Dame at 6:30 p.m.

on the team, have had to instruct the young guys more," Elliot said — young guys such as sophomore Rob Diggs and freshmen Damian Hollis and Travis King, all of who are expected to play key roles throughout the season.

"But I still feel that if we execute on the fundamentals, defending, and especially rebounding, we can play with some of the best teams in the country." **DREW RIFKIN**



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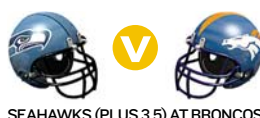
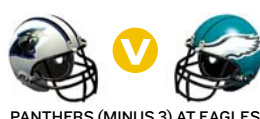
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ASSOCIATED PRESS**REDSKINS**  
Everyone is beating the Falcons right now.**DOLPHINS**  
Don't look now, but Joey Harrington is unstoppable.**COWBOYS**  
The way both teams are playing, it seems too easy to pick the favorite. It isn't.**BRONCOS**  
Shanahan, like Gibbs, should have started his young QB weeks ago.**PANTHERS**  
Last week's embarrassment at FedEx Field should scare the Panthers straight.**JETS**  
Would the Pack take Brady Quinn if they get the first pick in the draft?**REDSKINS**  
It's hard to pick the Redskins, but harder to pick the Falcons.**DOLPHINS**  
Harrington's looked like Dan Marino in recent weeks. OK, maybe an old Marino.**GIANTS**  
I'll pick even the self-destructing Giants when they're getting points at home.**BRONCOS**  
Cutler is just what this team needs to get things restarted.**PANTHERS**  
The Eagles need someone other than Jeff Garcia to get restarted.**JETS**  
The Packers have beaten the Lions, Cardinals, Vikings and Dolphins. Scary!**REDSKINS**  
Vick's finger is no match for Sean Taylor's helmet.**DOLPHINS**  
Dolphins usually win the games they are supposed to lose.**COWBOYS**  
Plaxico has more attitude than T.O. And Romo had five touchdowns last week.**SEAHAWKS**  
With Alexander back, this team suddenly remembered they are pretty good.**EAGLES**  
The Eagles still have Westbrook, and Garcia is fighting to keep his job.**PACKERS**  
Favre wasn't himself in Seattle, but is due for a big game against Gang Green.**REDSKINS**  
Campbell's arrival turned into a win last week because the D decided to play.**DOLPHINS**  
Miami is making its annual "too late" charge.**GIANTS**  
Giants are at a low point. Cowboys at a high point. But the NFC is too bizarre.**SEAHAWKS**  
Remember that Cutler is a raw rookie, not like Romo, who sat and watched for years.**PANTHERS**  
Look for ESPN to use its lengthy booth time for a McNabb-T.O. debate.**PACKERS**  
The Jets are a maddling team. Like everyone else.**SEASON TALLY** | Matt Swenson: 32-34-4; Ian Herbert: 28-38-4; Celebrities: 40-41-5; Dave Goldberg: 19-26-2; Linda Cropp: 4-1 (leader)

# Different Ways To Pick a Champ

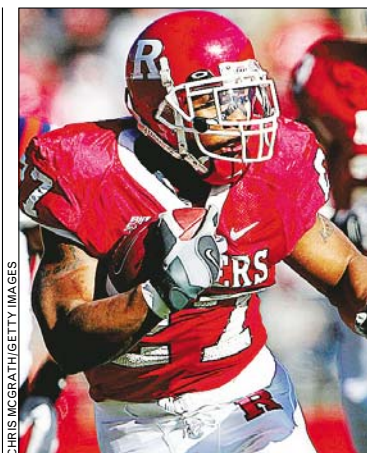
## Even the conferences without championship games have excitement

**COLLEGE PICKS** | As great as a conference championship game can be, and there are five being played in the next three days, deciding a league champ the old-fashioned way can be fun.

That's what the Big East will do Saturday when Rutgers plays at West Virginia and Louisville hosts Connecticut. The picks:

→ **NO. 4 FLORIDA** (MINUS 3) VS. **NO. 8 ARKANSAS**. Gators have won five of six meetings with Razorbacks ... **ARKANSAS 27-21**.

→ **NO. 8 OKLAHOMA** (MINUS 3 1/2) VS. **NO. 19 NEBRASKA**. First time since '88 Huskers and Sooners have played with championship at stake ... **OKLAHOMA 28-20**.



Rutgers running back Ray Rice takes his team up against the Mountaineers.

→ **NO. 13 RUTGERS** (PLUS 9 1/2) AT **NO. 15 WEST VIRGINIA**. Mountaineers haven't lost to Scarlet Knights since 1994 ... **WEST VIRGINIA 37-21**.

→ **NO. 16 WAKE FOREST** (PLUS 2 1/2) VS. **NO. 23 GEORGIA TECH**. Yellow Jackets have won eight of 10 in series ... **GEORGIA TECH 24-23**. RALPH D. RUSSO (AP)

**express**

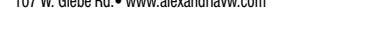
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Caps defender Brian Pothier vies for the puck with the Islanders' Alexie Yashin during a 4-1 loss in New York last week. Pothier brings experience to a young defense.

# Pothier Taking The Lead in D.C.

## Player embraces his role as elder statesman on new, young defense

**CAPITALS** | Last summer, defenseman Brian Pothier left the Ottawa Senators, one of the NHL's most successful franchises, to man the blue line for a young Washington Capitals team that struggles to win consistently, lags far behind their Canadian capital counterparts in popularity and doesn't exactly make it easy on its defenseman. He couldn't be happier.

"I love it. I'm so happy," he said. "I love the area and this team is just dynamic. It's so energetic, so enthusiastic and guys work so hard. It's so much fun to be in this locker room, so I'm just pumped."

Pothier, 29, was born in Massachusetts and played his college hockey at Rensselaer in New York. He signed with Ottawa in 2002 and did well, earning a permanent spot on the Sens' defensive unit in 2003 and notching 35 points and an impressive plus-29 rating — the 10th best in the league — last season.

But he was always overshadowed on the star-studded Senators, and quickly jumped at the chance to

play a featured role, and earn \$2.5 million a season, when the Caps came calling.

He's been earning his money so far this fall, logging nearly 27 minutes of ice time per game (fifth in the NHL) and leading the overachieving Caps with 12 assists heading into last night's game against Dallas.

In addition, he adds a smooth skating, puck-handling element the team has lacked in the new faster, wide-open NHL, a style that suits Pothier. Washington (9-9-6) hosts conference-leading Buffalo on Saturday and Pothier's old team on Dec. 6.

Perhaps more importantly, he fits in, a critical element on a team well known for relying on locker room chemistry to handle the ups and downs of the rebuilding process.

"There's nothing worse than a player feeling uncomfortable with the situation and then taking that out on the ice. Fortunately, he's just been terrific with us," goaltender Olie Kolzig said of Pothier.

As for keeping up with the workload, the Caps' new defensive leader simply smiled and said, "We'll find out. I sure hope so."

BRIAN STRAUS

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## NIGHTLIFE AGENDA

**No Retirement:** Dick Gregory — right, with Jay-Z — and Paul Mooney perform at the Lincoln Theatre on Saturday. | 23

# Entertainment Weekend

## 'F---' Fudges It

**New doc explores the pervasive, but still offensive, four letters**

FILM | There's something sort of quaint about the ideas plumbed in the documentary "F---," about the suggestion that anything could possibly be shocking anymore, particularly a frequently bandied-about four-letter word.

There's also something terribly familiar about the film's resemblance to another documentary that amassed celebrities and cultural experts to discuss a taboo topic: the more consistently entertaining "The Aristocrats," which traced the development of one of the oldest and raunchiest jokes in comedy.

Director Steve Anderson exhaustively explores the origins of the word and its many uses, from Lenny Bruce onstage to Dick Cheney on the Senate floor.

Comics like Billy Connolly, Drew Carey and Bill Maher can be hilarious when they get on a roll — then again, they should be, this is right in their wheelhouse — but too often "F---" feels like an endless parade



**SHOCKING:** In "F---," Bill Maher predictably argues that the F-bomb isn't a big deal.

of talking heads. Everyone falls into one of two camps: the cool kids who think the word is no big deal, and the conservatives who still find it

obscene (and are far less fun, and therefore far less funny).

Sam Donaldson explains in his trademark bombast that "The F-

word is a grand word," while Pat Boone thinks its use suggests crassness, and has instead turned his own last name into a cathartic expletive. Try shouting "Boone!" next time you stub your toe or knock over a glass of red wine. Doesn't feel quite so satisfying.

Porn stars such as Ron Jeremy and Tera Patrick get in on the act, as do musicians including Ice-T and Alanis Morissette, whose first hit, "You Oughta Know," famously included the line: "Are you thinking of me when you f--- her?"

"F---" also features what Anderson believes is the last filmed interview with Hunter S. Thompson before his 2005 suicide.

But then clips from myriad movies including "Sideways," "Old School" and "South Park: Bigger, Longer and Uncut" tend to upstage the documentary itself.

And like the act that constitutes one of the word's meanings, you can only do this for so long. By necessity, "F---" branches out into a discussion of decency, ranging from David Caruso's bare butt on "NYPD Blue" to Janet Jackson's Super Bowl wardrobe malfunction. At this point, the movie has lost its initial focus and instead becomes an indictment of the Federal Communications Commission — which feels as if it could be an entire documentary of its own.

CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)

### Got Plans?

FOR COMPLETE WEEKEND LISTINGS SEE [WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT](http://WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT)

**Does a girl have to go into the city to get her dance on? I would love to find dance club(s) in the Gaithersburg/Rockville/Bethesda area. Where do all the party people go in this area?**

To be honest, your best bet probably is to go into the city. However, Juste Lounge in Bethesda could make a solid substitute.

→ *Juste Lounge, 6821 Reed St., Bethesda; 202-393-0939, [justelounge.com](http://justelounge.com).*



Partying people at Juste Lounge, one of the only good dance spots in the 'burbs.

**Can you recommend a fun reggae venue in D.C. or Baltimore? I used to go to 13th Floor on Friday nights (B'more) but it's hit or miss. I'm looking for dancing and drinks, not a restaurant.**

Crossroads and Zanzibar are the big dogs, but there are a bunch of smaller spots that the real heads know about. For example, there's a new weekly event called Sleng Teng Lounge at Cafe Nema on Wednesdays.

→ *Crossroads, 4103 Baltimore Ave., Bladensburg, Md; 301-927-1056, [crossroadsclub.com](http://crossroadsclub.com).*

→ *Zanzibar on the Waterfront, 700 Water St. SW; 202-554-9100, [zanzibar-otw.com](http://zanzibar-otw.com).*

→ *Cafe Nema, 1334 U St. NW; 202-667-3215, [cafenema.com](http://cafenema.com).*

The Going Out Gurus think you should get out more. Join the discussion Thursdays at 1 p.m. | [WASHINGTONPOST.COM/liveonline](http://WASHINGTONPOST.COM/liveonline)

## Heroin Is Bad for You

**'Candy' offers a realistic, but staid, picture of addiction**

FILM | If there was any lingering doubt about Heath Ledger's versatility following "Brokeback Mountain," it should be dispelled here.

"Candy" allows him to get dark and dirty, and speak in his native Australian accent for a change, in an intensely believable tale of love and drug addiction.

Ledger and Abbie Cornish play Dan and Candy, a young married couple who do whatever they must



**SMACKING OF PREDICTABILITY:** Heath Ledger shows needles and the damage done.

to feed their heroin habit: beg, borrow, steal, even sell their bodies. The first time she turns a trick, of her own volition, he's OK with it. Australian stage director Neil Armfield takes that same unflinching, matter-of-fact approach the whole way; it's "Requiem for a Dream," stripped of all the audiovisual acrobatics.

Armfield, who co-wrote the script with Luke Davies based on Davies' novel, labels the film's three acts as "Heaven," "Earth" and "Hell." But since Dan and Candy are already junkies from the start, their fall doesn't feel quite so precipitous. And while the film itself goes through all the highs and lows required of any decent drug movie, it has no insight and offers nothing new about the nature of addiction.

CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)



MOVE, PEOPLE, MESSIAH COMING THROUGH: Mary (Keisha Castle-Hughes) and Joseph (Oscar Isaac) return to Nazareth in style in the earnest "Nativity Story."

# Plain 'Nativity' Scene

**'The Nativity Story' preaches the gospel with little energy**

FILM | Working from a thoroughly researched script by Mike Rich ("The Rookie," "Finding Forrester"), director Catherine Hardwicke ("Lords of Dogtown," "Thirteen") depicts the

birth of Christ in such a lifeless, suffocatingly earnest manner, you'd swear she made "The Nativity Story" specifically to be shown in Sunday school classes — or perhaps on the Hallmark Channel.

It is an innovative approach, though, to portray Mary (Keisha Castle-Hughes) and Joseph (Oscar Isaac) as a confused, newly married

couple trying to comprehend the fact that they're about to become parents of the Messiah. The gospels of Matthew and Luke address Christ's infancy, but little has been known, or shown, about mom and dad before that night in the manger. Most in the audience will walk away feeling that they've learned a thing or two.

Shohreh Aghdashloo, Ciaran Hinds, Shaun Toub and Hiam Abbas are among the eclectic international cast that's been amassed.

"Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb," Aghdashloo says in an example of the film's clunkily literal dialogue as Elizabeth, Mary's cousin.

Both are surprised to learn in

visits from the angel Gabriel (Alexander Siddig) that they're pregnant: Elizabeth had seemed too old and Mary had just become Joseph's wife in an arranged marriage to a man she barely knows and doesn't love (and had made a vow of chastity for their first year together).

While Mary is hiding out for a while with her cousin, King Herod (Hinds) has begun his paranoid search for the Messiah, based on an Old Testament prophecy. He instructs his troops to kill anyone who might be this child, but also hopes to find him through the Roman census, which forces citizens to return to their birthplaces.

Having returned to Nazareth obviously pregnant, Mary has been ostracized by nearly everyone — except Joseph, who believes her. She agrees to accompany him to his hometown of Bethlehem while on the verge of giving birth. And of course once they arrive in town, there's no room at the inn.

Schlepping through the desert at the same time are the three Magi (Nadim Sawalha, Eriq Ebouaney and Stefan Kalipha), who ostensibly were meant to provide a touch of comic relief. In their silken robes, the wise men — like everyone else in "The Nativity Story" — feel like participants in an elaborate high school production, one that looks authentic but has no soul.

CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)

# Freeman Saves 'Less'

**'10 Items or Less' thrives on fine acting despite slight premise**

FILM | What at first comes off like a prolonged drama-class exercise gradually develops into a mildly satisfying, out-of-left-field romp with "10 Items or Less," an unassuming tale about unlikely kinship sprouting between two strangers over the course of a day. Slight and wispy, it's a film that could only work with the gracious presence of someone like Morgan Freeman.

Freeman plays a movie star listed in the credits only as "Him," the character something of a riff on the actor himself. Considering a role as night manager at a low-end super-



OR MORE: Paz Vega and Morgan Freeman make a little movie seem bigger.

market in an independent film, Freeman's character heads out to a store in the Los Angeles suburb of Carson to research the part.

The sleepy, seedy market becomes a strange little bubble for a couple of hours as Freeman

studies the customers and the workers, particularly cashier Scarlet (Paz Vega), the spitfire who oversees the "10 Items or Less" checkout line.

Much of the film is stitched together from long, static sequences with few cuts, with Freeman and Vega persevering through excessive patches of dialogue. Still, writer-director Brad Silberling has made a sneaky little film, with a quiet, happy-sad, thought-provoking conclusion leaving viewers with something meaty to ponder.

"10 Items or Less" is a test case for alternative movie distribution. Two weeks after it debuts in theaters, the film will be available for online purchase or rental from Clickstarinc.com.

DAVID GERMAIN (AP)

# Kidman's Payday Is Top Gun

FILM | Nicole Kidman is the queen of Hollywood when it comes to money. The Oscar winner, who earns as much as \$17 million per movie, tops the fifth annual list of highest-paid actresses released Wednesday by the Hollywood Reporter.

Kidman, 39, ranked second on last year's list behind Julia Roberts, who dropped off this year because she spent time with her twins rather than appear in films.

In second place, with \$15 million per movie, was Reese Witherspoon, 30, who won the best-actress Oscar this year for her performance



RICH SMILE: You'd be grinning, too, if you could nab Kidman-level cash.

in "Walk the Line."

Renee Zellweger, Drew Barrymore and Cameron Diaz placed third, fourth and fifth, respectively. They also get \$15 million for each film.

Rounding out the top 10 are Halle Berry (\$14 million), Charlize Theron (\$10 million), Angelina Jolie (\$10 million), Kirsten Dunst (\$8 million to \$10 million) and Jennifer Aniston (\$8 million). (AP)



# Entertainment Weekend

## Nightlife Agenda

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TONIGHT? BY FRITZ HAHN, RHOME ANDERSON AND DAVID MALITZ

### FRIDAY

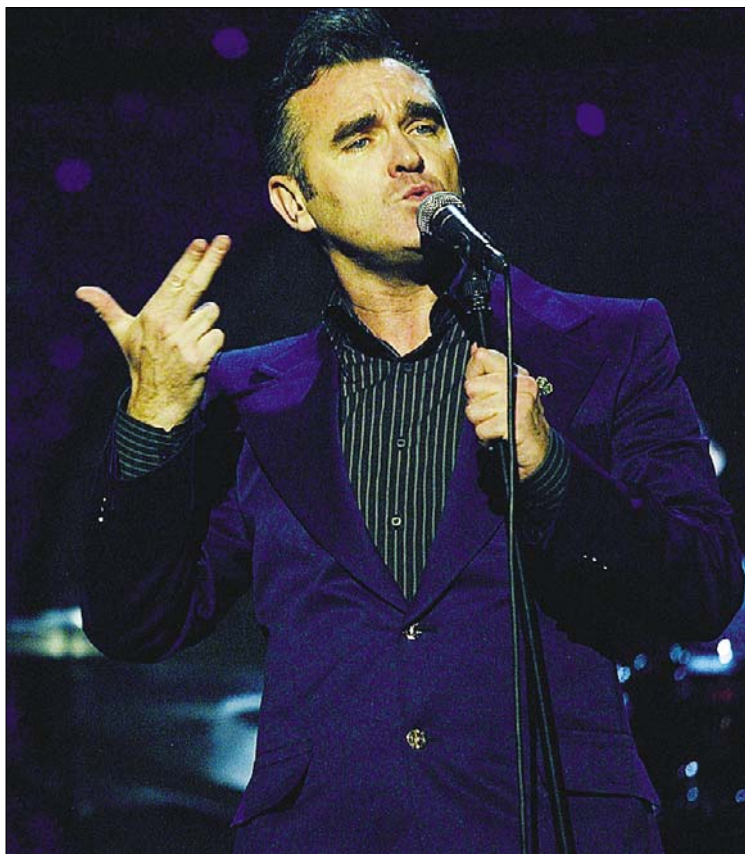
If that special someone is a fan of El Vez, the "Mexican Elvis," tickets to his show at the **BLACK CAT** are a perfect holiday gift: Few performers can match his magnetism — or his pompadour. Vez has hit the Cat annually for more than a decade and though he changes things up every year, one can expect lefty political moments, bizarre holiday songs and lots of jumpsuits. Real fans can have their photos taken with Vez — dressed as Santa — before he performs. Visit [elvez.net](http://elvez.net) to sign up. Space is limited.

### SATURDAY

Chilly December is upon us, but it will be plenty sweaty inside **DC9** for Tease. It may seem like there are enough indie dance night DJs in our town that we don't need to import them from other cities, but that's what's happening tonight as John Redden from Philadelphia's Hands & Knees party comes down to man the decks. Expect to hear some current indie hits as well as some clubber beats, a trend that should continue as the evening goes on and Ris Richards gets on the turntables. He'll drop smash-ups, Baltimore club and some of the best in local hip-hop.

If you want to hit up a dance night on Saturday but you're more of a sulker than a booty shaker, the **ROCK AND ROLL HOTEL** is the place for you. Strangeways is an all-night celebration of the Pope of Mope, so expect to hear all of your favorite Smiths and Morrissey songs, and maybe even some not-so-hot tracks from "Kill Uncle." Hey, it takes a lot of songs to fill six hours. For a long time, we thought evenings set to an all Smiths/Morrissey soundtrack were limited to the lonely bedrooms of 15-year old future English majors, but, apparently, we were wrong.

Not many comedy shows can double as history lessons, but tonight's concert featuring Paul Mooney and Dick Gregory at the **LINCOLN THEATRE** fits that bill. The two comics have roughly 70 years worth of combined experience to



KARL WALTER/GETTY IMAGES

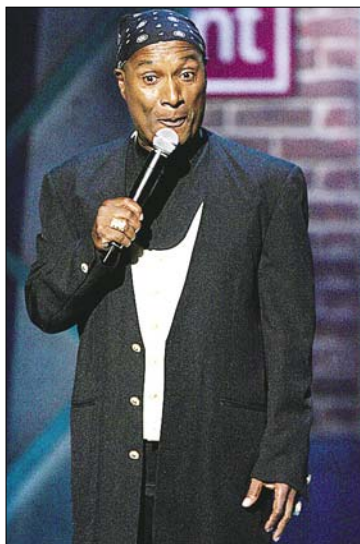
**HOW SOON IS SATURDAY?** Celebrity vegetarian Steven Patrick Morrissey emotes.

draw on and can tell tales of everyone from Richard Pryor to Malcolm X to Dave Chappelle. Mooney might be the more familiar name, due to his appearances on "Chappelle's Show," but he's also been a writer for "Saturday Night Live" and "In Living Color" in addition to being one of the more consistently hilarious storytellers around. He's a master of the form and can elicit laughs simply through his delivery. But don't worry, his material is plenty strong. Comic is just one of Gregory's titles, which also include best-selling author and former presi-

dential candidate. (His roughly 47,000 votes received in 1968 left him about 32 million short of what Richard Nixon received.) The show has some added relevance right now, as Mooney has been outspoken in the past week about eliminating a certain word that happened to serve as the title of Gregory's best-selling 1964 autobiography. So in addition to getting side-splitting comedy, you might actually learn something.

### SUNDAY

Few people are more renowned in outsider jazz circles than Matthew Shipp. The versatile pianist always keeps listeners on their toes, which is one of the reasons he's so revered. Just when you have him situated comfortably in the avant-garde jazz corner, he'll do a drum 'n' bass collaboration or dabble in traditional jazz. Shipp's performances are always adventurous, but tonight's at **TWINS JAZZ** should be subdued as well, as he will perform solo on piano. This won't be your average recital, though, as Shipp's playing always pushes boundaries and, like his career, keeps you guessing what will come next.



VINCE BUCCI/GETTY IMAGES

Paul Mooney, aka "Negrodamus," at the BET Comedy Icon Awards in '05.

An extended version of "Nightlife Agenda" is always available at [washingtonpost.com/cityguide](http://washingtonpost.com/cityguide)

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## Now Playing

**A GOOD YEAR** (PG-13, 118 minutes)  
"Under the Tuscan Sun of 'Sideways.'"  
That's one way to think of this unfathomable adaptation of Peter Mayle's novel. Unfathomable because what on paper looks like a sure-fire formula — France, romance, wine and Russell Crowe — falls as flat as a bottle of corked Bordeaux. (AH)

**ABDUCTION: THE MEGUMI YOKOTA STORY** (Unrated, 85 minutes) This film tells the story of a North Korean intelligence initiative by which Japanese nationals were kidnapped so spies could study them and master the art of masquerading as Japanese as they were dispatched to do mischief around the world. Megumi Yokota was 13 in 1977; she was walking home from school and simply vanished. It is a heartbreaking, gut-wrenching story of evil. (SH)

**BABEL** (R, 142 minutes) Director Alejandro González Iñárritu and writer Guillermo Arriaga tell multiple stories in multiple locations around the globe. Each tale is completely compelling on its own, and Iñárritu also proves superb at working with amateur actors. Yet as sophisticated a piece of filmmaking as it is, it seems hamstrung by the banality at its center and it never assembles into a satisfying whole. (SH)

**BOBBY** (R, 111 minutes) Emilio Estevez's ambitious, uneven and deeply affecting drama about the day Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated keeps the film's real subject on the margins of the story, instead conveying what the world looked and sounded and felt like the moment before it shattered. Even if it suffers from a few silly scenes, the movie gets more right than it does wrong. (AH)

**BORAT: CULTURAL LEARNINGS OF AMERICA FOR MAKE BENEFIT GLORIOUS NATION OF KAZAKHSTAN** (R, 89 minutes) Borat, played with seamless disingenuousness by Sacha Baron Cohen, has come to America to make a feature-length documentary for the people of his home country. As Borat cuts his wide and occasionally vicious swath, no petard goes unhoisted. It's a spectacle that delivers squeals, howls or at least low-level chuckles. The movie is a perfect combination of slapstick and satire. (AH)

**CASINO ROYALE** (PG-13, 140 minutes) Reinventing James Bond as a kind of Navy SEAL with an attitude problem, this movie turns out to be cracking good enter-



**WE'RE NOT WORTHY (OF AN OSCAR):** "For Your Consideration" skewers awards-season buzz and hype with mixed results.

tainment, as well as a fresh start for the 21-picture franchise. Daniel Craig kicks major maxims as a Bond who'd never use a computer where a punch will do. He's lean and athletic and fast, and he is seemingly the first Bond to actually bleed. Half an hour too long and with too many villains we really can't place in the plot, the movie nevertheless proves you seldom go wrong if you make a movie that leaves you stirred, not shaken. (SH)

**THE CAVE OF THE YELLOW DOG** (Unrated, 93 minutes) This film is written and directed by Byambasuren Davaa, who co-directed a sleeper hit of 2003, "The Story of the Weeping Camel." Like "Camel," this film is set in the majestic outback of Mongolia. When an adorable little girl named Nansal finds a stray dog, she brings the pup home, only to have her father demand she let him go. Filmed with the same blend of intimacy, sweep, documentary and fiction that made "Camel" such a dazzling debut, this movie also bears poetic imagery and a sweet, affecting story. (AH)

**COPYING BEETHOVEN** (PG-13, 120 minutes) The central issue of this movie is the composer's declining years when Ludwig (Ed Harris) and Anna (Diane Kruger) became pals during the writing of that damned Ninth Symphony, the composer's last, upon which he labored for almost 10 years. As the irascible, extremely annoying old beast makes life hell, the good-hearted, virginal but musically sophisticated Anna keeps him on course, becoming more than a copyist but secretary, maid, social director and almost manager or agent. It's completely fictitious, of course. But it's nevertheless a fascinating peek into the culture of greatness, and the movie is beguiling. (SH)

**DECK THE HALLS** (PG, 95 minutes) A wimpy WASP (Matthew Broderick) has long been the Xmas czar of his annoy-

ingly picturesque town and feels he is entitled to govern Christmas; a lower-class usurper (Danny DeVito) seeks to take over the holiday and turn his house into an Armageddon of blazing lights. It literally did not count a single laugh in the whole aimless schlep. (SH)

**DEJA VU** (PG-13, 128 minutes) ATF agent Doug Carlin (Denzel Washington) goes back in time to unravel a crime. Claire Kuchever (Paula Patton) is as beauti-

## Sunday in The Washington Post



### Temple of Doom

Noah Wyle embarks on a new adventure on Sunday in TNT's "The Librarian: Return to King Solomon's Mines." | *TV Week*

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ful as she is dead when Doug finds her washed ashore after the terrorist bombing of a ferry under the Crescent City Bridge in New Orleans. Traveling back in time to retrace her steps could save the 543 lives lost on the ferry, identify the killer and, most important, bring Claire back among the living. The movie attempts to explain the "science" behind the movie's time-jumping, but in a drama that's contemporary and supposedly realistic, it comes off as cockamamie. (DT)

**THE DEPARTED** (R, 149 minutes) A deranged wit runs through this film, which finds Martin Scorsese up to his same old tricks of exploring an American ethnic subculture with frequent detours into carnage and mayhem. Scorsese plumbs the colorful depths of the Irish

*Continued on page 26*

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## Now Playing

Continued from page 25

mob in Boston. Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon and Jack Nicholson play three men who came up in Southie, only to end up on opposite sides of the law, or straddling both. The movie crackles right along, stopping only for Scorsese's signature bursts of explosive violence. Those brawls feel a bit rote, but what's different here is humor. (AH)

**THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA** (PG-13, 109 minutes) Meryl Streep plays Miranda Priestly, the driven, demanding editor in chief of Runway, the bible of New York fashion magazines. Miranda's latest hire is Andy Sachs (Anne Hathaway), the smart girl who eschews fashion. She wants to be a serious writer. Can Andy survive Miranda and win a recommendation that will get her in the door at any magazine in Manhattan? Streep makes it work. JENNIFER FREY

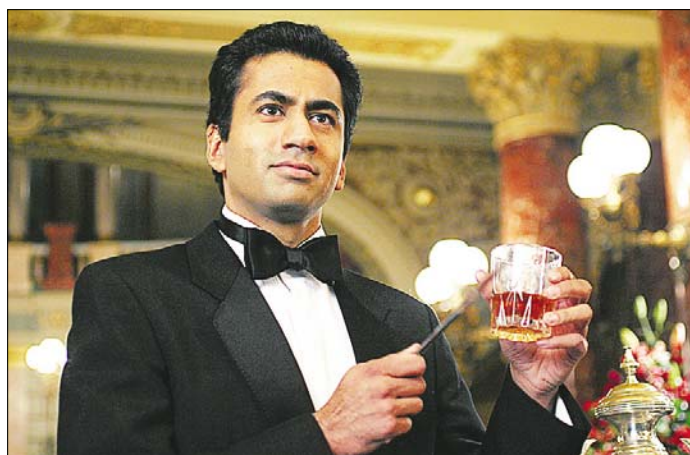
**FAST FOOD NATION** (R, 106 minutes) This film offers a thinly fictionalized structure affixed to some serious meat industry reportage originally by Eric Schlosser for a book of the same name. The film dramatizes Schlosser's findings, assigning his discoveries to personalities in and around hamburger culture. But the movie is weak and works far better as journal-

ism than as drama. (SH)

**FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS** (R, 132 minutes) The flag-raising on Iwo Jima was a real event that became a pseudo-event, the engine to a huge marketing machine with goals far more ambitious than the original participants could have imagined. And that process, exactly and resonantly, is the center of this heartbreaking and sobering film by Clint Eastwood. This film is passionate, honest, unflinching and gripping, and it pays respects. (SH)

**FLICKA** (PG, 94 minutes) Mary O'Hara's 1941 classic "My Friend Flicka" told the story of the dreamy younger son of a Wyoming rancher who found focus and love in his admiration for a mustang foal. In this edition, it's the younger daughter of a stern rancher, though the diagnosis is the same. There's no time for fibberty-dee about "feelings"; it's much more interested in how people get the job done, and that involves grit, labor and discipline. (SH)

**FLUSHED AWAY** (PG, 87 minutes) This first computer-generated cartoon by Aardman Animations — best known for Nick Park's brilliant "Wallace & Gromit" franchise — does away with the clay but leaves the craft and emotion intact. When circumstances conspire to send Roddy, a pet mouse (Hugh Jackman), down the loo and into a sewer-level London populated by rats, toads, the odd frog and a charm-



IT'S TAJ TIME

## Wilder Without Van

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN** when a film sequel doesn't even feature the titular character in the movie? It means absolutely nothing, bro, so party on! "Van Wilder 2: The Rise of Taj" dispenses with the Ferris Bueler-like Van Wilder (played with appealing smarm by Ryan Reynolds in the 2002 original) to concentrate on his protégé, Taj Mahal Badalandabad (Kal Penn, aka Kumar the White Castle Fiend). A well-schooled Taj heads to Oxford University to teach uptight Brits what it means to hammer a beer bong. CHRISTOPHER PORTER (EXPRESS)

ing Greek chorus of slugs, he discovers what's really important in life. Shot through with cheeky wit and hilarious musical numbers by slugs. (AH)

**FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION** (PG-13, 86 minutes) In this send-up of Hollywood, Christopher Guest has enlisted his usual repertory players as various art-

ists and apparatchiks working on a small film called "Home for Purim." When the indie production gets a little online buzz, suddenly everyone has visions of Oscar dancing in their heads. The movie is full of the observant comedy that made such Guest films as "Waiting for Guffman" and "A Mighty Wind" such cult favorites. But things take a nasty turn in the film's bilious third act, suggesting that Guest's deepest gift — his expansive humanism — stops at the studio gates. (AH)

**THE FOUNTAIN** (PG-13, 96 minutes) This is a futuristic romantic thriller with sci-fi and historical elements that blend into a trippy meditation on love, loss and the inextricable link between the two. Rachel Weisz plays two roles, Queen Isabella of Spain and Izzie, a contemporary woman who's going through an intense life passage; Hugh Jackman plays Izzie's husband, a driven physician; his 15th-century alter ego is one of Isabella's explorers. The film is a sprawling experiment in philosophical time travel and metaphysical noodling. And it's an earnest, magnificent work. (AH)

**FUR: AN IMAGINARY PORTRAIT OF DIANE ARBUS** (R, 122 minutes) Loosely based on the superb 1984 biography by Patricia Bosworth, this film throws the text out and is, instead, an abstract, almost surreal meditation on the pivotal moment in Diane Arbus' life when she eschewed her bourgeois upbringing and took a leap of

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## Now Playing

faith into art. Nicole Kidman is ramrod straight as Arbus, the prim wife and business partner of a commercial photographer. But then a mysterious man moves into the apartment upstairs (Robert Downey Jr.), and Diane discovers the subterranean world of freaks, geeks and misfits with whose portraits she would revolutionize photography. (AH)

**HAPPY FEET** (PG, 98 minutes) Anyone watching this computer-animated flick about an adorable tap-dancing, blue-eyed penguin named Mumble is going to, well, flip. Mumble (voice of Elijah Wood) realizes he can't sing, let alone come up with the special "heart song" that every able-bodied penguin needs to attract a mate. But the croaky fuzz ball sure can hoof. The movie, a mythic adventure in which Mumble is banished from his fellow waddlers before returning with newfound confidence, follows the familiar "Ugly Duckling" pattern. But its terrific songs are a warm cushion of welcome. (DT)

**THE ILLUSIONIST** (PG-13, 109 minutes) Edward Norton plays Eisenheim, an illusionist who has become the toast of aristocratic Vienna and is being watched by Chief Inspector Uhl (Paul Giamatti). The movie then backtracks to Eisenheim's beginnings as a poor boy, his friendship with a spirited young duchess and the downfall of their budding romance. The movie is a subtle, eerie augury of the cataclysm that awaits Austria, but it can't overcome a fatal inertness. (AH)

**JACKASS: NUMBER TWO** (R, 95 minutes) This sequel amounts to wall-to-wall bonehead behavior and it's hard to justify the grosser material, some of which borders on the pornographic. But these dudes understand the simple integrity of a slapstick gag. (DT)

**THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND** (R, 121 minutes) This film concerns the flamboyant African despot Idi Amin, said to have been responsible for the murder of 300,000 of his fellow Ugandans during the '70s. The movie uses a fictional

device to get up close and personal, but Amin, representing a human extreme, is so much more interesting than his witness, a young Scottish doctor of prosaic appetites and self-interests (James McAvoy). (SH)

**LITTLE CHILDREN** (R, 130 minutes) In this movie, the arrival of a convicted child molester in East Wyndam, Mass., triggers outrage throughout the community. But in this movie's reverse code, Ronnie the pedophile (Jackie Earle Haley) is practically one of the good guys. What links the well-to-do residents of the town is a deep-seated frustration. The happiness everyone seeks seems to be missing. The film is a hugely absorbing social drama that is, by turns, excruciating, sad and sardonic. (DT)

**LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE** (R, 101 minutes) Throw a quirky family in a broken-down, yellow VW bus en route from Albuquerque to Redondo Beach, Calif., so that 7-year-old Olive (Abigail Breslin) can compete for the dubious title of Little Miss Sunshine. What happens when the family actually makes it to the pageant is sad, sweet, enlightening and really, really funny. JENNIFER FREY

**MAN OF THE YEAR** (PG-13, 108 minutes) A talk-show host is asked why he won't run for president; the question spawns an Internet campaign urging him to run, and eventually he jumps into the race. For the first half-hour, Robin Williams does his trademark stand-up and the script skewers politicians. But if you're expecting a laugh fest, beware. (JF)

**MARIE ANTOINETTE** (PG-13, 118 minutes) Sofia Coppola has never been partial to narrative, but with this film she proves that she can tell a story. Kirsten Dunst plays the notorious French queen, whose engagement at age 14 to King Louis XVI was less a betrothal than a geopolitical merger. Much has been made of Coppola's frothy depiction of the Court of Versailles, but naysayers have completely missed the point of a film that is suffused with politics. Coppola brilliantly conjures the young queen's insular world, in which she was both isolated and claustrophobically scrutinized. (AH)

**OPEN SEASON** (PG, 79 minutes) Martin



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## Paradise Lost

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Lawrence voices Boog the bear, a grizzly who as a cub was adopted by kindhearted park ranger Beth (Debra Messing). When he crosses paths with an errant mule deer named Elliot (Ashton Kutcher), however, his cushy lifestyle ends, and he

is dropped back into the wild, three days before hunting season. With a slick visual style, the movie trots out tropes that recent animated classics have done with more wit and smarts. (AH)

**THE PRESTIGE** (PG, 129 minutes)

Christian Bale, Hugh Jackman and Michael Caine, who play feuding magicians and their mentor, respectively. And there's the twisty plot that actually gives viewers a fighting chance to figure things out before the Big Reveal. If you see only one magic-at-the-turn-of-the-century movie this year, make it this one. (AH)

**THE QUEEN** (PG-13, 99 minutes) England's constitutional irony is the chilly but entertaining subtext of Stephen Frears' tragedy-comedy about the worst public relations crisis at Buckingham Palace since Henry VIII. The crisis begins in late August 1997, when Queen Elizabeth II (Helen Mirren) learns of Princess Diana's death. Mirren's finely calibrated performance reveals a complex woman coping with a bewildering world. (DT)

**SANTA CLAUS 3: THE ESCAPE CLAUSE** (G, 98 minutes) The third in a franchise that peaked in its first installment, this movie, which re-stars Tim Allen and 40 pounds of phony belly as the Christmas guy, has an almost criminal lack of invention or charm or even much story. (SH)

**SAW III** (R, 107 minutes) The gruesome manipulator Jigsaw (Tobin Bell) was last seen dying of brain cancer in "Saw II." But he captures a brain surgeon and forces her to operate on him with the tools in his hideout. A weird amalgam of disturbing gore and arty attempts to interweave Jigsaw's strange relation-

*Continued on page 28*

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## Now Playing

Continued from page 27

ship with his sullen, ex-junkie assistant with flashback sequences and running storylines from the two previous movies, this sequel is essentially another hack job. (DT)

**SHUT UP & SING** (R, 93 minutes) In this documentary by Barbara Kopple, you watch as wizard group manager Simon Renshaw masterminds a series of offensives meant to keep the Dixie Chicks alive after lead singer Natalie Maines, speaking before a London concert audience, announced to the attendees, "We're ashamed that the president of the United States is from Texas," just as the American ground action in Iraq was beginning in 2003. One of the excellent attributes of the film is that it lets the cards



JAY MAIDMENT/AP/GETTY IMAGES

**HOLD ON, BABY, I SEE A SEA MONSTER!** "Casino Royale" is James Bond at his finest.

fall where they may and really doesn't try to spin the Chicks themselves. (SH)

**STRANGER THAN FICTION** (PG-13, 105 minutes) Harold Crick (Will Ferrell) keeps hearing a voice in his head. It belongs to Kay Eiffel (Emma Thompson), an English writer who just happens to be writing a

novel about a character named Harold Crick, who she plans to kill off. We nearly lick our lips, anticipating the intriguing resolutions ahead. Unfortunately, the filmmakers seem to have their minds on some other movie. (DT)

**TALLADEGA NIGHTS: THE BALLAD**

**OF RICKY BOBBY** (PG-13, 105 minutes) Will Ferrell's NASCAR sendup doesn't do much more than go for the quick guffaw from stereotypical red-neck jokes. (TW)

**TENACIOUS D IN THE PICK OF DESTINY** (R, 93 minutes) Jack Black and Kyle Gass hit the big screen with mixed success, depending on the age, gender and degree of inebriation of the filmgoer. The movie is nominally about how the men's band, Tenacious D, got started and found fame and fortune. It's really an excuse for extended scatological gags, in-joke cameos and self-referential songs that both lampoon and celebrate rock at its most ridiculously grandiose. (AH)

REVIEWS BY THE WASHINGTON POST'S  
ANN HORNADAY, STEPHEN HUNTER,  
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## Television



IT'S JUST LIKE JAZZ, MAN: "The Office" relies on improvisation from its actors.

# Be Funny On the Fly

## The actor-writers on 'The Office' know spontaneous comedy

TV | "The Office" is the rare scripted TV show in which the line between writing and performing is, by design, almost nonexistent. It's an improv-style approach that could yield important lessons for those puzzled by the identity crisis and creative drift that seem to be afflicting small-screen comedy.

A workplace mockumentary set in the Scranton, Pa., branch of fictional paper company Dunder-Mifflin Inc., "The Office" has had some of its most acclaimed episodes written by regular or recurring cast members, some of whom are barely out of college.

Mindy Kaling, who plays the show's "Indian Valley Girl," Kelly Kapoor, drew on her cultural heritage to write a script this season that had the Dunder-Mifflin crew awkwardly celebrating the Hindu holiday Diwali.

Another "Office" 20-something, B.J. Novak, who plays the

laconic young temp, Ryan, is a stand-up comic with a Harvard education and writing credits on five episodes.

Veteran comedy writer Paul Lieberstein became a performer entirely by accident, developing the bit part of the soft-spoken human resources manager, Toby, into a wry portrait of a passive-aggressive player in corporate politics.

Even series star Steve Carell, who plays the endlessly embarrassing boss, Michael Scott, has pitched in, writing last season's finale episode.

Executive producer Greg Daniels, formerly a writer-producer on "The Simpsons" and "King of the Hill," said the double duty is intentional. He has clauses inserted in the writers' contracts to cover whatever acting chores arise.

"Partly, I was just imitating things I loved, like 'Monty Python' or 'Fawlty Towers,' where the writers and performers are the same people," Daniels said. "The actors I hired, I tried to have them all have improvisational backgrounds."

SCOTT COLLINS (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

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### AMC HOFFMANN CENTER 22

Eisenhower Ave and Telegraph Road in Alexandria  
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**NATIONAL LAMPPOON'S VAN WILDER: THE RISE OF THE TAJ (R)** / (11:45 @ \$5), 2:30, 5:15, 7:45, 10:20, 12:55  
**TURISTAS (R)** / (11:20 @ \$5), 1:50, 4:40, 7:25, 9:55, 12:30  
**DECK THE HALLS (PG)** / (11:45 @ \$5), 12:45, 2:10, 3:10, 4:50, 5:45, 7:15, 9:30, 12:10  
**DEJA VU (PG13)** / (10:00, 10:45 @ \$5), 1:00, 1:45, 4:05, 4:45, 7:10, 8:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:55  
**THE FOUNTAIN (PG13)** / (10:35 @ \$5), 1:25, 4:25, 6:55, 9:45, 12:20  
**TENACIOUS D IN THE PICK OF DESTINY (R)** / 12:05 AM  
**CASINO ROYALE (PG13)** (10:30 @ \$5), 12:30, 2:00, 4:15, 5:15, 7:30, 8:30, 11:00, 12:00  
**HAPPY FEET (PG)** (10:15, 11:15 @ \$5), 1:15, 2:15, 3:55, 5:00, 6:45, 7:45, 9:30, 10:30, 12:15  
**HAPPY FEET (PG)** (10:15 @ \$5), 1:15, 3:55, 6:45, 9:30, 12:15  
**STRANGER THAN FICTION (PG13)** (11:00 @ \$5), 1:40, 4:55, 7:55, 10:40  
**BORAT (R)** (11:55 @ \$5), 2:35, 5:10, 7:35, 8:35, 10:10, 11:10, 12:25  
**FLUSHED AWAY (PG)** (10:50 @ \$5), 1:25, 4:05, 6:30, 8:50  
**THE SANTA CLAUSE 3: THE ESCAPE CLAUSE (G)** (10:55 @ \$5), 1:35, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35  
**SAW III (R)** (11:35 @ \$5), 2:20, 5:20, 8:05, 10:45  
**THE PRESTIGE (PG13)** (10:05 @ \$5), 1:00, 4:10, 7:05, 10:25  
**THE DEPARTED (R)** (10:05 @ \$5), 1:30, 4:45, 8:25, 11:45

**AMC SELECT**  
**THE NATIVITY STORY (PG)** / (11:30 @ \$5), 2:15, 5:00, 7:30, 10:15, 12:45  
**BOBBY (R)** / (10:10 @ \$5), 1:10, 4:10, 7:20, 10:05  
**FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (PG13)** / (11:05 @ \$5), 1:20, 3:35, 5:55, 8:10, 10:25, 12:35  
**THE QUEEN (PG13)** (10:20 @ \$5), 1:05, 3:45, 6:35, 9:15

### AMC SPRINGFIELD MALL 10

Loisdale and Franconia Road  
703-971-3991

**NATIONAL LAMPPOON'S VAN WILDER: THE RISE OF THE TAJ (R)** / 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:45, 10:10  
**TURISTAS (R)** / 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00  
**DECK THE HALLS (PG)** / 1:20, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40  
**DEJA VU (PG13)** / 1:15, 4:20, 7:30, 10:20  
**TENACIOUS D IN THE PICK OF DESTINY (R)** / 9:50 PM  
**CASINO ROYALE (PG13)** 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:10  
**HAPPY FEET (PG)** 1:30, 4:40, 7:40, 10:15  
**BORAT (R)** 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20  
**FLUSHED AWAY (PG)** 12:40, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20  
**THE SANTA CLAUSE 3: THE ESCAPE CLAUSE (G)** 1:15, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30

**AMC SELECT**  
**THE NATIVITY STORY (PG)** / 1:00, 4:10, 7:15, 9:50

### AMC MAZZA GALLERIE

Jenifer and Wisconsin  
202-537-9553

**DECK THE HALLS (PG)** / 12:50, 3:30, 5:15, 7:30, 9:55  
**DEJA VU (PG13)** / 1:35, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10  
**TENACIOUS D IN THE PICK OF DESTINY (R)** / 4:50, 10:20  
**CASINO ROYALE (PG13)** 12:30, 3:20, 6:30, 9:45  
**HAPPY FEET (PG)** 12:30, 3:30, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30  
**BORAT (R)** 1:10, 3:10, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30  
**BORAT (R)** 1:10, 3:10, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30  
**FLUSHED AWAY (PG)** 12:10, 2:20, 4:30  
**THE DEPARTED (R)** 6:40, 9:50

**AMC SELECT**  
**BABEL (R)** 1:45, 7:05

### LOEWS GEORGETOWN 14

3111 K Street, N.W.  
202-342-6441

**NATIONAL LAMPPOON'S VAN WILDER: THE RISE OF THE TAJ (R)** / 12:05, 2:15, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20  
**TURISTAS (R)** / 12:20, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:30  
**DEJA VU (PG13)** / 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:25  
**DEJA VU (PG13)** / 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:25  
**THE FOUNTAIN (PG13)** / 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:15, 10:50  
**TENACIOUS D IN THE PICK OF DESTINY (R)** / 12:10 PM, 10:45 PM  
**CASINO ROYALE (PG13)** 12:00, 1:00, 3:10, 4:10, 6:30, 7:30, 10:00, 11:00  
**HAPPY FEET (PG)** 2:45, 5:25, 8:05  
**STRANGER THAN FICTION (PG13)** 12:00, 2:30, 5:05, 7:50, 10:35  
**BORAT (R)** 1:20, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15

**AMC SELECT**  
**THE NATIVITY STORY (PG)** / 2:00, 4:20, 6:50, 9:15  
**BOBBY (R)** / 1:55, 4:50, 7:45, 10:40  
**FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (PG13)** 12:30, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40  
**BABEL (R)** 12:35, 3:50, 7:05, 10:20  
**THE QUEEN (PG13)** 12:15, 2:35, 5:00, 7:35, 10:05

### LOEWS LEXINGTON PARK 6

21882 FDR Boulevard  
301-862-5000

**DECK THE HALLS (PG)** 2:45, 5:30, 8:00, 10:15  
**DEJA VU (PG13)** 2:00, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30  
**CASINO ROYALE (PG13)** 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:45  
**HAPPY FEET (PG)** 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30  
**THE SANTA CLAUSE 3: THE ESCAPE CLAUSE (G)** 2:30, 5:15, 8:10, 10:35

**AMC SELECT**  
**THE NATIVITY STORY (PG)** 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

### AMC POTOMAC MILLS 18

2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Ste 886  
703-998-4262

**NATIONAL LAMPPOON'S VAN WILDER: THE RISE OF THE TAJ (R)** / (11:55 @ \$5), 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:30  
**TURISTAS (R)** / (11:50 @ \$5), 2:20, 4:40, 7:05, 9:25  
**DECK THE HALLS (PG)** / 12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 9:55  
**DEJA VU (PG13)** / (10:40, 11:20 @ \$5), 1:30, 2:25, 4:40, 5:15, 7:20, 8:10, 10:20, 11:00  
**DEJA VU (PG13)** / (11:20 @ \$5), 2:25, 5:15, 8:10, 11:10  
**THE FOUNTAIN (PG13)** / 12:30, 3:00, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10  
**TENACIOUS D IN THE PICK OF DESTINY (R)** / 3:25, 5:40, 8:00, 10:40  
**CASINO ROYALE (PG13)** (11:15 @ \$5), 12:00, 2:30, 3:15, 6:00, 6:45, 9:20, 10:15  
**HAPPY FEET (PG)** (10:30, 11:00 @ \$5), 1:00, 1:45, 3:45, 4:30, 6:30, 7:15, 9:15, 10:00  
**STRANGER THAN FICTION (PG13)** (11:10 @ \$5), 2:00, 4:50, 7:35, 10:30  
**BORAT (R)** (10:55 @ \$5), 1:20, 3:30, 5:45, 8:15, 10:25  
**FLUSHED AWAY (PG)** (11:45 @ \$5), 12:30, 2:05, 4:25, 6:50  
**THE SANTA CLAUSE 3: THE ESCAPE CLAUSE (G)** 12:05, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:45

**AMC SELECT**  
**THE NATIVITY STORY (PG)** / (10:35 @ \$5), 1:05, 4:10, 7:00, 9:35  
**BOBBY (R)** / (11:05 @ \$5), 1:50, 4:35, 7:30, 10:35  
**FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (PG13)** 12:50, 3:10, 5:35, 7:50, 10:05  
**BABEL (R)** 9:00 PM

### AMC COLUMBIA MALL 14

10300 Patuxent Parkway  
410-423-0520

**NATIONAL LAMPPOON'S VAN WILDER: THE RISE OF THE TAJ (R)** (11:15 @ \$5), 1:35, 4:05, 6:25, 8:45, 11:05  
**TURISTAS (R)** 12:55, 3:20, 5:50, 8:15, 10:40  
**DECK THE HALLS (PG)** (11:35 @ \$5), 1:55, 4:20, 6:45, 9:15  
**DEJA VU (PG13)** (11:10 @ \$5), 12:35, 2:05, 3:40, 5:00, 6:35, 7:55, 9:30, 10:50  
**DEJA VU (PG13)** 12:35, 3:40, 6:35, 9:30  
**THE FOUNTAIN (PG13)** 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:15, 9:35  
**TENACIOUS D IN THE PICK OF DESTINY (R)** 10:15 PM  
**CASINO ROYALE (PG13)** 12:45, 4:15, 7:45, 11:00  
**HAPPY FEET (PG)** (11:05 @ \$5), 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45  
**STRANGER THAN FICTION (PG13)** (11:00 @ \$5), 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50  
**BORAT (R)** (11:25 @ \$5), 1:40, 3:55, 6:15, 8:35, 10:55  
**FLUSHED AWAY (PG)** (10:55 @ \$5), 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 8:05  
**THE SANTA CLAUSE 3: THE ESCAPE CLAUSE (G)** 12:25, 2:55, 5:15, 7:35

**AMC SELECT**  
**THE NATIVITY STORY (PG)** (11:50 @ \$5), 2:25, 4:55, 7:25, 9:55  
**BOBBY (R)** 12:40, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10  
**BABEL (R)** 10:00 PM

### LOEWS FAIRFAX SQUARE 8

8065 Leesburg Pike  
703-506-9857 802

**THE FOUNTAIN (PG13)** 2:15, 4:50, 7:30, 9:30  
**TENACIOUS D IN THE PICK OF DESTINY (R)** 2:00, 4:30, 6:50, 9:20  
**FLUGS OF OUR FATHERS (R)** 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00  
**THE PRESTIGE (PG13)** 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50  
**QUIEN MATO A LA LLAMITA BLANCA? (NR-NOT RATED)** 2:30, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10

**AMC SELECT**  
**FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (PG13)** 1:45, 4:40, 7:40, 9:40  
**MARIE ANTOINETTE (PG13)** 1:15, 4:10, 7:20, 9:55  
**THE QUEEN (PG13)** 2:45, 5:00, 7:50, 10:05

### MAGIC JOHNSON CAPITAL CENTRE 12

800 Shopper's Way, Largo  
301-324-4220

**NATIONAL LAMPPOON'S VAN WILDER: THE RISE OF THE TAJ (R)** 12:25, 2:45, 5:25, 7:45, 10:10  
**TURISTAS (R)** 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 8:00, 10:20  
**DECK THE HALLS (PG)** 12:20, 2:50, 5:15, 7:50, 10:25  
**DEJA VU (PG13)** 12:30, 1:30, 3:30, 4:15, 6:30, 7:15, 9:30, 10:15  
**THE FOUNTAIN (PG13)** 2:20, 5:00, 7:20, 9:50  
**CASINO ROYALE (PG13)** 12:00, 3:20, 6:20, 9:25  
**HAPPY FEET (PG)** 12:05, 3:15, 6:15, 9:00  
**FLUSHED AWAY (PG)** 12:15, 2:25, 4:35, 7:05, 9:40  
**THE SANTA CLAUSE 3: THE ESCAPE CLAUSE (G)** 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:45

**AMC SELECT**  
**THE NATIVITY STORY (PG)** 12:35, 3:05, 5:35, 8:05, 10:25  
**BOBBY (R)** 1:00, 4:05, 7:00, 10:00

### LOEWS DUPONT 5

1350 19th St.  
1-800-FANDANGO #711

**FAST FOOD NATION (R)** 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00  
**BABEL (R)** 2:00, 5:00, 8:00  
**COPYING BEETHOVEN (PG13)** 2:20, 4:40, 7:10, 9:50  
**THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND (R)** 4:30, 7:40  
**THE ILLUSIONIST (PG13)** 1:45, 7:20  
**LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE (R)** 2:40, 5:20, 7:50, 10:10

### LOEWS UPTOWN 1

3426 Connecticut Avenue N.W.  
1-800-FANDANGO #713

**AMC SELECT**  
**BOBBY (R)** 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

### AMC TYSONS CORNER 16

7850 Tysons Corner Center  
703-998-4262

**NATIONAL LAMPPOON'S VAN WILDER: THE RISE OF THE TAJ (R)** / (10:05 @ \$6), 12:20, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 10:00, 12:15  
**TURISTAS (R)** / (10:00 @ \$6), 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50, 12:10  
**DECK THE HALLS (PG)** / (10:15 @ \$6), 12:30, 2:50, 5:20, 7:40, 9:55  
**DEJA VU (PG13)** / (10:25 @ \$6), 1:15, 4:05, 5:55, 7:05, 8:50, 10:10, 11:40  
**CASINO ROYALE (PG13)** (10:30 @ \$6), 12:05, 1:45, 3:30, 5:00, 7:00, 8:25, 10:20, 11:45  
**HAPPY FEET (PG)** (10:05, 11:20 @ \$6), 12:40, 1:55, 3:20, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40, 12:05  
**STRANGER THAN FICTION (PG13)** (11:05 @ \$6), 1:50, 4:35, 7:25, 10:05  
**BORAT (R)** (10:45 @ \$6), 12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 7:55, 9:35, 10:25, 11:50  
**BORAT (R)** 9:35 PM, 11:50 PM  
**FLUSHED AWAY (PG)** (10:35 @ \$6), 12:50, 3:05, 5:15, 7:35, 9:45  
**THE SANTA CLAUSE 3: THE ESCAPE CLAUSE (G)** (10:00 @ \$6), 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:15  
**THE SANTA CLAUSE 3: THE ESCAPE CLAUSE (G)** (10:00 @ \$6), 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:15  
**THE DEPARTED (R)** 12:25, 3:45, 7:05, 10:30

**AMC SELECT**  
**THE NATIVITY STORY (PG)** / (10:20 @ \$6), 12:45, 3:15, 5:50, 8:20, 10:45  
**BOBBY (R)** / (10:40 @ \$6), 1:30, 4:15, 7:25, 10:15  
**BABEL (R)** (10:10 @ \$6), 1:20, 4:40, 7:45, 10:50

### AMC RIVERTOWNE 12

Exit 4A I-95, 1/2 mi. on Oxon Hill Rd.  
703-998-4AMC

**NATIONAL LAMPPOON'S VAN WILDER: THE RISE OF THE TAJ (R)** / 5:40, 8:00, 10:25  
**TURISTAS (R)** / 5:45, 8:10, 10:40  
**DECK THE HALLS (PG)** / 5:45, 8:05, 10:35  
**DEJA VU (PG13)** / 4:40, 7:00, 8:00, 10:20  
**CASINO ROYALE (PG13)** 6:30, 10:00  
**HAPPY FEET (PG)** 4:45, 7:45, 10:30  
**FLUSHED AWAY (PG)** 5:40, 8:10, 10:35  
**THE SANTA CLAUSE 3: THE ESCAPE CLAUSE (G)** 4:15, 7:15, 9:50  
**SAW III (R)** 4:40, 7:30, 10:15

**AMC SELECT**  
**THE NATIVITY STORY (PG)** / 4:30, 7:20, 10:05  
**BOBBY (R)** / 4:20, 7:00, 10:10

### AMC COURTHOUSE PLAZA 8

Courthouse and Birch Rd.  
703-998-4AMC

**NATIONAL LAMPPOON'S VAN WILDER: THE RISE OF THE TAJ (R)** / 12:20, 2:35, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40  
**TURISTAS (R)** / 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:30, 9:55  
**DEJA VU (PG13)** 2:15, 4:50, 7:30, 9:30  
**THE FOUNTAIN (PG13)** 12:30, 2:40, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50  
**STRANGER THAN FICTION (PG13)** 1:20, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45  
**AMC SELECT**  
**THE NATIVITY STORY (PG)** / 12:10, 2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30  
**BOBBY (R)** / 1:30, 4:15, 7:05, 9:50  
**FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (PG13)** 1:10, 3:30, 5:30, 7:35, 9:35

### LOEWS SHIRLINGTON 7

2772 South Randolph  
703-671-0910 801

**THE FOUNTAIN (PG13)** 1:30, 4:10, 7:10, 9:30  
**AMC SELECT**  
**THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND (R)** 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40  
**BABEL (R)** 2:00, 5:00, 8:00  
**COPYING BEETHOVEN (PG13)** 2:10, 4:40, 7:40, 9:50  
**SHUT UP & SING (R)** 1:50, 4:30, 7:30, 9:50  
**THE QUEEN (PG13)** 1:20, 3:50, 7:00, 9:10  
**LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE (R)** 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:20

### AMC COUNTRY CLUB MALL 6

Country Club Mall on Vocke Rd near Route 68.  
301-729-6633

**NATIONAL LAMPPOON'S VAN WILDER: THE RISE OF THE TAJ (R)** / 12:45, 3:15, 5:30, 8:00, 10:10  
**TURISTAS (R)** / 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30  
**DECK THE HALLS (PG)** / 12:30, 3:00, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10  
**DECK THE HALLS (PG)** 12:30, 3:00, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10  
**CASINO ROYALE (PG13)** 12:00, 3:15, 6:30, 9:55  
**FLUSHED AWAY (PG)** 12:45, 3:00, 5:10, 7:30, 9:30  
**THE SANTA CLAUSE 3: THE ESCAPE CLAUSE (G)** 12:15, 2:45, 5:10, 7:45, 10:10

### LOEWS WHITE FLINT 5

North Bethesda  
1-800-FANDANGO #741

**DEJA VU (PG13)** 2:00, 4:35, 7:15, 10:05  
**CASINO ROYALE (PG13)** 3:10, 6:30, 9:45  
**HAPPY FEET (PG)** 2:00, 5:00, 7:25, 9:55  
**BORAT (R)** 2:10, 4:40, 7:30, 9:35

**AMC SELECT**  
**BABEL (R)** 3:00, 7:00, 10:00

Times for Friday, December 1, 2006

express



movie  
showtimes

## MARYLAND

**LAUREL CINEMA 6**  
LAUREL SHOPPING CENTER RT. 1  
301-604-2885  
SHOWS BEFORE 6PM \$5.00  
R-ID required  
(I) No Passes/No Discount Ticket  
ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6 PM ONLY \$5.00  
**HAPPY FEET (PG)**  
(I) 12:15, 2:35, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00  
**DECK THE HALLS (PG)**  
(I) 12:30, 2:50, 5:00, 7:20, 10:20  
**TURISTAS (R)**  
(I) 12:30, 2:45, 5:10, 7:20, 10:20  
**CASINO ROYALE (PG-13)**  
(I) 12:00, 3:10, 6:30, 9:45  
**DEJA VU (PG-13)**  
(I) 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 10:00



## The Majestic 20

900 Ellsworth Drive 240



# Television

**BEHIND THE MUSIC:** The “VH1 Rock Docs” series has five new feature-length documentaries in the can. “The Return of Courtney Love” debuts at 9 p.m. on Dec. 16. The other titles, including one on, umm, Tommy Chong, will debut early next year.



## ON TV THIS WEEKEND

**MOM, DAD: STOP FIGHTING!**  
The farcical British comedy **THE WORST WEEK OF MY LIFE** (Fri., 9:40 p.m., BBC America) returns for a second seven-episode season. Last year’s “Worst” counted down the seven days preceding Howard (Ben Miller) and Mel’s (Sarah Alexander) wedding. In the new season’s “Worst,” Howard and Mel anticipate the birth of their first child during an overscheduled week that involves a funeral, a moving day and an unexpected downsizing at Howard’s firm. Not to give too much away here, but Howard is recruited to act as a last-minute pallbearer. The fact that you can anticipate the slapstick disaster does not make it any less cringe-worthy.

**WORLD AIDS DAY**  
Ashley Judd and Salma Hayek travel

through Central America in the one-hour documentary **ASHLEY JUDD AND YOUTHAIDS: CONFRONTING THE PANDEMIC** (Fri., 8 p.m., TLC), showcasing ways people have changed behavior that puts them at risk of contracting HIV. Other World AIDS Day programming



**THE SECOND ‘WORST WEEK’:** BBC America series offers awkward comedy.

includes **POSITIVELY NAKED** (Fri., 7 p.m., Cinemax), a chronicle of the making of a photograph of 100 HIV-positive people. Showtime will air the 2003 movie **BEAT THE DRUM** (Fri., 8 p.m., Showtime), about a Zulu boy whose village has been decimated by the disease.

**NUTTY CHUCK**  
**THE MADNESS OF PRINCE CHARLES** (Sat., 9 p.m., WE) takes a glib and irreverent look at the Prince of Wales and heir to the British crown. The “Madness” in question is Charles’ habit of making controversial statements about architecture, medicine and religion.

**VIRGINIA OR BUST**  
**GOODSPEED TO JAMESTOWN** (Sat., 8 p.m., History) documents efforts to build a replica of the original Godspeed, the ship that carried 52 men and boys from England to the Jamestown colony in Virginia in 1607.

**SHHH! ACTION MOVIE IN PROGRESS**  
Noah Wyle returns to the role of a swashbuckling know-it-all in the fantastic comic-book sequel **THE LIBRARIAN: RETURN TO KING SOLOMON’S MINES** (Sun., 8 p.m., TNT). A rollicking, tongue-in-cheek composite of “Indiana Jones,” “Romancing the Stone” and dozens of pulp adventure novels, “The Librarian” enhances its thin plot with elaborate visual tricks and special effects.

**FACING CRIMINALS**  
MSNBC kicks off a series of Sunday-night documentaries with **BEYOND CONVICTION** (Sun., 8 p.m., MSNBC). A film-festival favorite, “Conviction” follows two female crime victims as they come face-to-face with the men who victimized them.

**LESTER’S NO DUMMY**  
Freamon feels the heat on **THE WIRE** (Sun., 10 p.m., HBO).



Ashley Judd reports on the AIDS pandemic affecting Central Americans.

**SERIAL DEATH**  
A grim new crime scene on **DEXTER** (10 p.m., Showtime). KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

12.1.06	6:00 PM	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
LOCAL CHANNELS	WRC 4 News		Nightly News	Access Hollywood	1 vs. 100 (iTV) (N) 1		Las Vegas Ed and Danny have 12 hours to save Delinda from her kidnappers.		News		News	Tonight Show
	WTTG 5 Every-Raymond	The Simpsons 1	The Simpsons 1	Seinfeld 1	Justice "Shotgun" (N) 1		Trading Spouses: Meet-Mommy		News		News	Geraldo at Large
	WJLA 7 News	ABC Wild News	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	*** "The Polar Express" (2004) Voices of Tom Hanks. Premiere. 1				20/20		News	(35) Nightline
	WUSA 9 News	Evening News	9News Tonight	Entertainment	Ice Wars 2006: USA vs. The World (N)				NUMB3RS "Provenance" 1		News	Late Show
	WDCA 20 Scrubs "My Fault"	Scrubs "My Bad"	Judge Joe Brown	Judge Judy (N) 1	Desire "Flash Point" (N) 1		Fashion House "In Loving Memory"		The Tyra Banks Show (N)		Still Standing 1	Still Standing 1
	WMPT 22 The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	Business Rpt.	State Circle	Washington Week	NOW (N)		The Nutcracker With Mikhail Baryshnikov 1				My Music Number 201: Funky Soul	
BASIC CABLE	WETA 26 BBC World News	Business Rpt.	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	Washington Week	Inside Wash.		NOW (N) 1	Secrets of the Dead (DVS)	To Be Announced		Charlie Rose (N) 1	
	WHUT 32 White House	Tavis Smiley 1	BBC World News	Moneywise	Evening Exch	Earth, Wind, & Fire: Shining Star		BBC World News	Tavis Smiley 1		Charlie Rose (N) 1	
	WDCW 50 My Wife and Kids	My Wife and Kids	Friends 1	Friends	WWE Friday Night SmackDown! (N) 1			Will & Grace 1	Will & Grace 1		Sex and the City	Sex and the City
	A&E	Crossing Jordan "He Said, She Said"	CSI: Miami "Invasion" 1	CSI: Miami "Money for Nothing" 1	CSI: Miami "Wannabe" 1		CSI: Miami "Deadline" 1		CSI: Miami "The Oath" 1			
	Animal	The Crocodile Hunter	The Crocodile Hunter	Meerkat Manor	Meerkat Manor		Animal Cops Detroit "Cat Catching"		The Crocodile Hunter			
	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live (N)	Access Granted	*** "Prison Song" (2001, Drama) Q-Tip, Fat Joe, Mary J. Blige.	*** "The Princess Bride" (1987) Cary Elwes, Robin Wright.		Comicview		Jamie Foxx			
SPORTS	Bravo	Top Chef Thanksgiving dinner.	Inside the Actors Studio Tom Hanks.	*** "The Princess Bride" (1987) Cary Elwes, Robin Wright.	*** "The Princess Bride" (1987) Cary Elwes, Robin Wright.		Com.-Presents	Com.-Presents	Com.-Presents	Com.-Presents		
	Comedy	(5:00) *** "Kingpin" (1996)	Scrubs 1	Scrubs 1	Daily Show	Colbert Report	Chappelle's Show	South Park	Com.-Presents	Com.-Presents	Com.-Presents	Com.-Presents
	Court	Hollywood Heat	Masterminds 1	Cops 1	Cops 1	World's Scariest Police Chases 2 1	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Murder by the Book	
	Discovery	It Takes a Thief	Dirty Jobs Water snakes.	Everest: Beyond the Limit	Untold Stories of the E.R.		Dr. G: Medical Examiner		Skeleton Stories "Buried Secrets"		Untold Stories of the E.R.	
	DISCH	Code Blue "One Day at a Time"	Impact: Stories of Survival	Untold Stories of the E.R.	Dr. G: Medical Examiner		Skeleton Stories "Buried Secrets"		Untold Stories of the E.R.			
	Disney	Life With Derek	Zack & Cody	Hannah Montana	That's So Raven	Hannah Montana	Zack & Cody	"Mickey's Once Upon a Christmas" (1999) 1	Zack & Cody	Zack & Cody	That's So Raven	
MOVIES	E!	House of Carters	House of Carters	E! News (N)	The Daily 10 (N)	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Dr. 90210	The Soup (N)	Handler Show	E! News	The Daily 10
	FX	King of the Hill 1	King of the Hill 1	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	Nip/Tuck "Reefer"	
	HGTV	If Walls Could	Offbeat America	What You Get	House Hunters	Designed to Sell	24 Hour Design	Under 1 Roof (N)	Save Us-House	House Hunters	House Hunters	Want Tech Toy
	Family	Everwood "Your Future Awaits" 1	Frosty's Wnter	*** "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" (2001) Daniel Radcliffe, J.K. Rowling's student wizard has his first adventure.				House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	Want Tech Toy	I Want That!
	History	UFO Files: UFO Cults	Our Generation	Mail Call	The Lost Evidence (N)		Shootout! (N)		Dogfights "Hell Over Hanoi" (N)		Wild West Tech: Brothel Tech	
	Lifetime	Reba	Reba	Still Standing 1	Still Standing 1	Reba 1	Reba "Switch" 1	*** "Noel" (2004, Drama) Penélope Cruz, Susan Sarandon.	Monarch Cove (N)			
ENTERTAINMENT	MTV	The Real World	Rob & Big 1	Rob & Big 1	Rob & Big 1	Parental Control	Parental Control	Parental Control	Parental Control	Parental Control	The Real World "Denver" 1	
	NICK	Ned's School	Avatar-Last Air	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Avatar-Last Air	Avatar-Last Air	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	Full House	Full House	Roseanne	Roseanne
	SCI FI	Stargate SG-1 "Foothold" 1	Heroes "Six Months Ago" 1	Doctor Who "The Satan Pit" (N) 1	Battlestar Galactica (N) 1		Battlestar Galactica (N) 1		Stargate SG-1 "Icon" 1		Battlestar Galactica 1	
	SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation 1	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation 1	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation 1		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation 1		World's Most Amazing Videos		Disorderly Conduct: Video on Patrol	
	TBS	Seinfeld 1	Seinfeld 1	Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	King of Queens	King of Queens	*** "The School of Rock" (2003) Jack Black. An unemployed guitarist poses as a teacher.			Beverly Hills Ninja	
	TLC	While You Were Out	Take Home Chef	Take Home Chef	Take Home Chef	Ashley Judd and YouthAIDS	What Not to Wear: Redo My Spouse	What Not to Wear	What Not to Wear	What Not to Wear	What Not to Wear: Redo My Spouse	
NEWS	TNT	Law & Order "Smoke" (DVS)	Without a Trace "In Extremis" 1	Without a Trace "Midnight Sun" 1	Without a Trace "Midnight Sun" 1		2006 NASCAR Nextel Cup Series Awards Ceremony (Live)					
	USA	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Monk "Mr. Monk and the Psychic"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit 1	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit 1		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit 1		House "Whac-A-Mole" 1			
	VH1	I Love the '90s "1997" 1	Tracking the Monster: Confront AIDS in Africa	Hogan Knows	Hogan Knows		Hogan Knows	Hogan Knows	Hogan Knows	Hogan Knows	Best Week Ever	Williams Exper.
	TELEM	Sala de Parejas	Noti-Telemndo	Viuda de Blanco (N)	Marina (N)		Amor Mio (N)	Amores (N)	Decisiones		Noti-Telemndo	Titulares y Mas
	UNIV	Que Locura	Noticiero Univ	Heridas de Amor (N)	La Fea Más Bella (N)		Mundo de Fieras (N)		Casos de la Vida Real		Primer Impacto	Noticiero Univ.
	ESPN	SportsCenter (Live)		NFL Live	NBA Shootaround	NBA Basketball Sacramento Kings at Dallas Mavericks. From American Airlines Center in Dallas.			SportsCenter (Live)			
MOVIES	ESPN2	College Soccer NCAA Cup Semifinal -- UCLA vs. Virginia. From St. Louis.		College Football Conference USA Final -- Houston vs. Southern Mississippi. From Houston. (Live)					Quite Frankly With Stephen A. Smith			
	CSN	BCS Breakdown	SportsNite	NBA Basketball Charlotte Bobcats at Washington Wizards. (Subject to Blackout) (Live)		Wizards Post.	SportsNite		To Be Announced		Final Score	
	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight	The Situation Room	Paula Zahn Now		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360				
	FNC	Special Report (Live)	The Fox Report With Shepard Smith	The O'Reilly Factor (Live)		Hannity & Colmes (Live)		On the Record-Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		
	MSNBC	Tucker	Hardball	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		MSNBC Investigates		MSNBC Investigates		MSNBC Reports		
	AMC	(15) *** "Commando" (1985, Action) Arnold Schwarzenegger. 'R'		*** "Rambo: First Blood Part II" (1985) Sylvester Stallone. Premiere. 'R'					*** "Halloween: Resurrection" (2002) Jamie Lee Curtis. (15) Halloween			
MOVIES	TCM	*** "Annie Hall" (1977, Comedy) Woody Allen, Diane Keaton. 'PG'		*** "White Christmas" (1954, Musical Comedy) Bing Crosby. 'NR'					(15) *** "Wonder Man" (1945, Musical Comedy) Danny Kaye. 'NR'			
	HBO	Sound-Thunder	Blood Diamond	Inside the NFL 1		*** "War of the Worlds" (2005) Tom Cruise. 'PG-13'			The Wire Carcetti faces a dilemma. 1		Def Comedy Jam	Menace II Society
	MAX	(5:00) *** "Scream" (1996) 1 'R'	Positively Naked	(15) In Time 1		*** "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" (2005) Johnny Depp. 'PG'			*** "Return of the Jedi" (1983, Science Fiction) Mark Hamill. 'PG'			
	SHOW	*** "The Thomas Crown Affair" (1968) Steve McQueen. iTV Premiere. 'R'		*** "Beat the Drum" (2003) Junior Singo. 'NR'		(15) Black Book			Masters of Horror Supernatural pelts.		Boxing (iTV) (Live)	
	TMC	Incident-Loch	(20) *** "Stateside" (2004) Rachael Leigh Cook. 1 'R'	*** "The Big Lebowski" (1998, Comedy-Drama) Jeff Bridges. 1 'R'					*** "Dirty Deeds" (2005) Milo Ventimiglia. 1 'NR'		Ripper 2: Letters	
	STARZ!	(5:05) *** "The Parent Trap" (1998) Lindsay Lohan.	(20) *** "Cursed" (2005) Christina Ricci. 'PG-13'	*** "Bewitched" (2005, Romance-Comedy) Nicole Kidman. 1 'PG-13'					(10:50) *** "When a Stranger Calls"			
ENCORE	(15) *** "Cool Runnings" (1993, Comedy-Drama) Leon. 1 'PG'		*** "National Treasure" (2004, Adventure) Nicolas Cage. 1 'PG'						(15) *** "Thelma & Louise" (1991, Drama) Susan Sarandon. 1 'R'			



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### JOBS

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Ruby Tuesday 202-363-7005 FT/PT, hourly pos avail. RESTAURANT

#### SERVERS

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### JOBS

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**10121 New Hampshire Ave.  
Silver Spring, MD; Tel: 301-431-7450**  
or at:

**12211 Viers Mill Rd.  
Wheaton, MD; Tel: 301-962-0600**

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6505 Belcrest Rd. Suite- 100  
Hyattsville, MD 20782

**Rosslyn Metro**  
1820 N. Fort Myers Drive Suite-300  
Arlington, VA 22209

Call: 571-438-6555

Fax: 866-589-7312

E-Mail: recruitment.cs@accesswww.com

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Medispa, FT, 3 yrs Sales exp. Excellent customer service skills. Fax resume 301-249-4246.

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## The Washington Post

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Professional with 5 yrs security and/or law enforcement w/ 3 yrs supervisory experience, supervising min of 50 people. AA or 2 yrs college desired, or 4 yrs exp required. Must be current DC SPO w/clean credit and crim hist. Salary \$52,000 + benefits. Please submit resumes to steve@marcherconsultants.com

VA 11-1373

EOE

## SECURITY

## SECURIGUARD, INC.

PROJECT MANAGER  
(Washington, DC)

Manages daily activities of the security operations to include security analysis with recommendations, post orders, emergency procedures, etc. Ensure contract compliance for a 85 member contract security force

- Min 10yrs command and/or supervisory Secur./LE exp
- Exp managing min 50 empl
- Pref. SPO, but must have ability to be armed cert. in DC.
- BA/BS required
- Sched M-F, 7am to 3:30pm

**Benefits:** Salary commensurate with experience starting at \$75,000.00, Medical, Vacation, 401K plan.

ASSISTANT PROJECT MGR.  
(Washington, DC)

Assists in mgmt of daily activities of the security operations to incl. proper coverage of duty schedules, payroll & work activity of assigned personnel. Required to supervise & delegate duties to supervisors & security force.

- Min. 5 yrs command and/or supervisory Security/LE exp
- Three yrs contract mgmt exp preferred for security contract in DC metro area.
- Exp managing min 50 empl
- AA/AS required
- Prefer SPO, but must have ability to be armed cert. in DC
- Sched M-F, Tues-Sat, 2:30pm to 11pm

**Benefits:** Salary commensurate with experience starting at \$65,000.00, Medical, Vacation, 401K plan.

Send resume to securiguardhr@aol.com  
or fax 703/790-1696.

VA 11-1373

EOE

## Teacher

FTC Childcare Center is seeking an infant room lead teacher. BS in ECE or Bachelors degree in any field with CDA or 15 hrs in ECE req'd. Good benefits, competitive salary. Fax resume to 202-326-2790 or call 202-326-2088

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## Security

## SECURIGUARD, INC.

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## SPO

Req 2 yrs security exp \$16.67

## EMTS

Req 2 yrs exp in fire/emergency services or security. SPO pref \$16.40

## Dispatchers

Req 2 yrs exp in security ops center \$17.20

Must be 21 yrs old, US Citizen, possess HS/GED & no criminal convictions. Apply in person M-Th, 9am-2pm @ 6858 Old Dominion Dr #307 McLean VA 22101. Bring licenses/credentials.  
**VALIC 11-1373** **EOE**

## SECURITY OFFICER

Needed for DC area. Must be bilingual English & Spanish. High School diploma. Some experience helpful, day & night shifts. Call (703) 931-1000.

## SECURITY

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Direct TV/Dish Network Installation Technicians. \$800-\$1600/wk. Baltimore/Wash. Metro area & VA. Prefer candidates w/exp but will train. Must have reliable truck or van (we offer rent to own to qualified candidates), driver's lic., & must speak English. Call 443-992-0484 or 202-361-1784.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Standard Poodle**—2 doodles stole frm my home. Reward for retrn of Jannie Jack & Rain 540-327-5222 Im heart broken! pls HELP!

## STUFF

**8 piece Cherry sleighbed set** (new in boxes) worth \$1100 asking \$595. **301-343-8630**

**Air Hockey Table**—\$500. Germantown, MD. 301-444-3499. 8 ft Commercial Grade Air Hockey Table, 98" x 50" x 11", 350 lbs, 18 mths old in excellent condition. Will need truck.

**ALEX**—furniture, toques, antiques, 5610 Iona Way (off Indian Run Rd), Sunday 11/26, 9 to 3.

**ALEX/MT VERNON**—Sat Nov 18, 8602 Falkstone Lane, 9am-2pm. Kids items. Dbl stroller, crib, copper pots, barber chr, piano, bar/ stools & hsehd items.

**ANTIQUE & COLLECTORS COVE**—Holiday Sale 20-50% off All Merchandise. 12005 Crain Hwy, Rte 301 So. Newberg, MD. 20519 Dirs welcome.

**BAZAAR**—Sat Dec 2nd, 9am-3pm. Chevy Chase United Methodist Church, 7001 Conn Ave., Chevy Chase, MD

**BED \$160 Queen Double pillowtop mattress set.**

**New in plastic.** Can del **301-339-7870**

**BED SETS**—Distributor Overstock. Brand New in Plastic. TWIN/FULL/QUEEN/KING. Starting at \$70.

**301-440-7590**

**BED \$245 Double pillowtop king mattress set.**

**New in plastic.** Can del **301-343-8630**

**BED**—Beaut. Mexican hand carved wood & leather king size bed frame, from tropical rich grain of Rosa Morada wood (dark brown finish). One of a kind, handcrafted design imported from Mexico, dimensions, length 91", width 86", backboard width 71", backboard height 59.5". \$2700. 202-725-6200

**BEDRM SET**—Cherry queen sz., Basset, 7-pc, good cond., \$500. 703-476-5929

**BETHESDA**—River Road Unitarian Church, 6301 River Rd., Sat, Dec 2. Giant Estate Sale with garage sale prices. 8:00 to 2:45pm. Live Auction 3:30pm. www.rruc.org/bazaar 301-229-0400.

**BRASS BED FRAME**—King size, contemporary, 4-poster. Open canopy, almost new. Best offer. Call 301-983-3232

## CARPET SALE - HOLIDAY BLOW-OUT SALE

## FREE GIFT WITH PURCHASE

Carpet Starting at \$1.59/s.f. Hardwood floors, \$6.99/s.f. Price includes installation. **301-341-2499**

**CHEVY CHASE - ESTATE SALE - SAT, 12/2, 9a-2p**—Furn., rugs, beds, curtains, hsehd items, free books. **8220 Kerry Rd. (20815)**

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**DICKENS VILLAGE READY FOR CHRISTMAS** 38 PC., many retired + accessory pcs. Like new in orig. boxes. \$2400 or offer. John 703-689-0242

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**Fairfax County**—Greenbriar-12/2&3, 8-1, 4444 Majestic Ln, Fairfax. Still clearing for downsizing. Another great sale. Clothes, hsehd items, books, +. 66W/50W/Majestic.

**FFGW'S 5TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR SAT. Dec. 2 9AM-3PM** Faith Lutheran Church, 3313 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA. Crafts/Food/White Elephant/Rescue Groups

**FILING CABINET**—HON metal 5-drawers, 1 yr old, beige, locks, blt-in hanging file racks, 60"H, 15"W, 26.5"D. \$225/OBO 703-812-8110

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**Forest Hills/NW** 2891 Audubon Terr Vintage furn & decor; Karastan rugs; fine art; Asian; books; tools; more! **ONE DAY ONLY! Sat, Dec 2, 10-5. ESTATE TREASURES.**

**FUR COAT**—Swing black mink. Knee length. \$4500 obo. 202-492-0723.

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## HOTEL

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2 DAYS ONLY

**FRIDAY-SATURDAY, 10AM-5PM**

2pc Sectional Sleepers \$69  
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Complete contents. Allen digital organ, 5-pc BR, teacart, cedar chest, wardrobe, old quilts, carved trunk, dbl bed, S/F secretary, 8-pc china, iron tbl & chrs, uphol chrs, 5 TVs, Noritake, china, glassware, toys 1950-60, bks, electr., computer, olds, X-Mas, tools, lots of stuff. E. Conn. Ave. from 495, R Players Mill, R Wheatley, L Oberon to 3310. #s 7:30. Sale by Mr. Bill's 301-943-3781

## KITCHEN CABINETS (Never used)

Maple, all wood. \$150

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**Loom**—Loom. 30", 24 harness, sectional, Doby AVL Loom. Accessories: users manual and software included. \$4000. Herndon, VA. 703-834-1488

**LORTON, VA**—Big moving sale Sat. 9-3. Electronics, furn., mattress, & more. 6705 Newington Rd. 703-946-4551

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Classifieds

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703-920-8665 [www.ffgw.org](http://www.ffgw.org)  
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**BLACK RUSSIAN TERRIER** — F, 9 mos, no papers, \$350 to a good home. Call 410-747-6175.

**Border Collies**—Rare Male Merle for \$450, ABCA Registry, 10 weeks old ready to go today, 540-514-1805 or [rtjasin@att.net](mailto:rtjasin@att.net)

**Boston Terrier**—AKC; \$650; 8 weeks; 1st/2nd shots; brindle;434-774-7307; [vtubb@gmail.com](mailto:vtubb@gmail.com)

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**POODLES**—ACA small miniature, 1st shots, wormed, white/silver F, \$500; silver Ms \$400. 1 301 797-2777

**PUG PUPS** — Purebred, Fawn/Black, M/F, shots/wormed, \$500 & up. 410-271-1433.

**ROTTWEILER PUPS**—AKC. German, top show/pro- tect, Excel Fam Comp, 703-622-2022 [www.dunkelbergrotts.com](http://www.dunkelbergrotts.com)

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**Siberian Husky**—\$500.00, M/F, 8 weeks, 3012901790. black & white. 1st shots & health cert.incl. Ready 12/20

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## Classifieds

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**SE/2210 Nicholson St.**—Free rent until 2007! 2BR-\$950, G&E, newly renov, CAC. Rodney 240-832-6702

**SE**—4BR 2BA apt. Newly renov, CAC & heat, carpeting. \$1800/mo. Sect 8 welcome. 240-463-2070.

**SE**—Project Based Sec. 8 Community 4 blocks from Columbia Heights Metro, under renovation has limited number of newly finished apartments for occupancy. Please contact Carolyn @ 202-289-4611. CIH Prop., Inc. EHO

**SE WASHINGTON**

### WINGATE GARDEN APARTMENTS

#### Daily Giveaways to Applicants Weekly Grand Prize Drawing

Newly renovated garden apt homes now avail. Spacious floorplans. Gated community conv to Anacostia & Southern Ave. Metro.

**EFF. FROM \$395**

**1 BR FROM \$545\* • 2 BR FROM \$695\*** Kitchens with NEW cabinets & appliances. Newly refinished parquet floors. Abundant closet space. Ceiling fan in dining area.

Income restrictions may apply  
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**SE** **EHO**

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**1BRs from \$790!\***  
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**ext 205 & 206**

\*must move in before 11/30/06\*\*call for details  
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**SE Cascade Pk Apts - 4236 4th St**  
5 bldg Gated Community w/ext renov underway. Immed occupancy 4Br \$1495, 3Br \$1395, 2Br \$895 SPECIAL ONE MONTH FREE!, 1Br \$695, Eff. \$645. Renov kitch, new appl, hdwd & cptd flrs, AC, Indry rm, on site mgmt. Call 202-562-1600  
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**SE (DC)** **EHO**

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5 BR, 2 BA SF Detached home. Lge fenced in yard. Section 8 Voucher program welcome. OPEN 12/2 Sat 12-3. 1334 Valley Place. 202-255-3626

**S.E. Section 8 Welcome**—Brand new 3BR apts. New: carpet, kitch & BA. Newly renovated community. Walk to area shopping/metro/public trans. Call 202-965-9050.

**SIL SPG**—3 Lvl TH. 3 BR, 2 FBA. Vacant, close to transp & shppg. \$1699. Call 240-286-6568

**SILVER SPRING**—New lxyr condo. Pnthse/rftp patio. 1BR indr prkng. Wlk to Metro. \$1650. 301-384-7256

**SILVER SPRING \$1650/mo**  
Nice updated older home 3BR 1 1/2 BA, wood floor, fireplace. Call 301-404-9768

**Silver Spring**—Clis 2 Met, 4br, 2.5ba, fnshd bsmt, remold kitch, shed, \$2000/mo call avail around 12/15 301-434-7544 or 240-472-8971

**SILVER SPRING**—Sect 8 OK. Nr Belpre Shopping Ctr. 2BR 1BA condo. \$1300. 240-672-2524

**Southeast**—RENT SPECIAL!  
WDC 1 Apartments professionally managed by Winn Residential. 1 & 2 BRs avail, starting at \$615-\$750. Tax credit community. Call 9-5pm 202-575-2990. Open Sat. 10-2  
**VOUCHERS ARE WELCOME**

**Southeast**—\$1800, 3201 8st, Luxury Condo. 2 br/2 ba jacuzzi's, wd, hw flrs. No Sec/No Credit Check. Section 8 Welcome! 703-843-1427

**Southwest**—\$2100.00, 248 G St SW, Townhome, newly ren, 1700 sf, 2 br, 1 ba, 1 1/2 ba, 2 Fls, small dogs/cats allowed, 12 month lease pref, dw, balc, nr pub transp-3 metros, wd, hw flrs, 202.821.6579, Must See!

**Springfield**—3 br avbl. MBR \$750 - 2BR \$600, looking for responsible person 703-759-2805

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• Ideal location close to VRE, I-95, shopping & dining  
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**Sterling**—\$2200, Single House, 4 br, 2 Office & Rec. rooms, 3 Ba, 2 Car gar, small pet OK, 202-230-4698

**SUITLAND**—1BR condo \$845 Metro. Sec 8 welcome. 202-446-4116

**Suitland** **EHO**

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**UPPER MARLBORO**—3BR 2.5BA TH. Rent: \$1500. Rent to own: Low to Mid \$200's. Call Nina Thompson 202-420-0664. Exit Premier Realty 301-560-6700.

**UPPER MARLBORO**—IMMACULATE 4 BEDROOMS, 3.5 BATH, 5-YEAR OLD COLONIAL 9' CEILINGS, FIREPLACE, FINISHED BASEMENT, 2-CAR GARAGE CLOSE TO MAJOR COMMUTER ROUTES. AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY. \$2400 OR BEST OFFER. OPEN HOUSE SAT. DEC. 9 FROM 10-5PM. 240 508-6141

**Vienna**—\$2,400, SFH, 4 br, 3 ba, cul-de-sac, newly ren 703-965-9645

**VIENNA/TYSONS**—5 BR, 3.5 BA, 3800 s.f. Fncl backyard, 2 car gar. \$2495. 703-470-0457

**WALDORF**—3BR 1BA 2 M TH. \$1600. Rent w/opt to buy. 301-437-0309

**WALDORF**—3BR, 2 1/2 BA TH, new crpt, fresh paint, W/D, CAC/H, DW, alarm, assigned prkg, wtr treatment system, near shpg/entertmt/schls. \$1600. 202-716-2867

**WB**—\$1600, 1383 Ironwood st, Woodbridge 4br 703-501-5897

**WOODBIDGE/LAKERIDGE**—Lge bsmt to rent, have new full bath, kitch, pvt Indry facil, BR & lge LR, \$925 incl utils. 703-994-3821.

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**ALDEPHI/SS**—2BR furn condo to shr. + Util. \$550 + Sec dep. 443-965-7086

**ALEX/FRANC**—F/M to shr SFH nr Metro. \$700 w/pvt BA, utils incl. Cbl/int. No pets 703-981-1386

**ALEX/FRANCONIA/SRPNGLD METRO**—Furn rm avail in bsmt of SFH. BA & Kit. Incl util, cable & Intern. (\$700) 703-922-9693

**ALEX**—Nr Old Town, shr hse, studio, kit, FBA, dinette, W/D, hd flr. Nr shop & bus \$750+utils & sec dep 240-377-6067

**ANNAN**—1-BR, share BA, \$500. 703-675-4630, 703-865-6612

**ARL**—Shr hse. Walk Ballston Metro. Immed. Rms \$595. Rm \$675; Rm/BA/entry \$795 + Util. **703-599-7572**

**Arlington North**—F Prof/NS 2 shr cute 3Br/3Ba Hse, own living space, nr metro, 625+1/3utl 703-532-8685

**ASHBURN**—Room for rent. Private bath/entrance. Across from shopping center. \$500 incl utils. 703-956-0181

**BETH/MONT MALL/NIH**—M/F prof. shr SFH. quiet neighb. N/S. Avail immed. \$600/mo. 301-221-5984

**BETHESDA**—Apt to shr. \$700 & \$600 utils. incl. Nr Grosvenor Metro. 202-321-5818; 202 458-7833

**CAP HEIGHTS**—4BR house to share. Quiet area. CATV. Nr DC/MD line. Metro access. M/F. \$550 utils incl. 202-412-0700

**Cap Hights & Lanham**—Rms avail. CATV. \$160/wk & up. 202-330-7265

**CAP HGTS**—off Addison Rd. Rooms avail, shr, kitchen. N/S, no pets. From \$400/mo. 240-305-3618

**Capital Heights**—\$425, 6903 Adel street, 3 br, 1 1/2 ba, util n/incl, walk to Addison Metro, 240-888-6017

**CENTREVILLE**—House to shr, 1 spacious BR in bsmt w/full BA, pvt entrance, close to George Mason, 28, & 66. Call O.C. 703-825-1924



Classifieds

ROOMMATES

**Centreville**—\$500+1/4 util.NS m/f 1br shr full bath in a 3lvl 4yr old TH, no pets, must be a professional **CHANTILLY**—F to shr bsmt w/f in SFH, utls, CATV, phone, internet incld. \$600/mo. 703-272-2652 **CHANTILLY**—Luxury SFH on 5 acs, prv BA, security, amenities, hi spd, N/S, N/P. \$550. 703-266-1516 **College Pk**—Unfurnished room Metro 1blk hsi frig micro w/d ns \$600 utls incl 301 254-7385 **DUMFRIES/WOODBRI**—Shr. TH, bsmt rm w/ pvt entr, kit, w/d. \$950. Dep. \$350. Call Mike 703-473-2717 **Fairfax Station**—\$175/Wk/Per-Util Incl, MBR Suite, Pvt Ent/Ba, 10AC, No Pets, Cabl/HS Int 703-395-5412 **Falls Ch/Tyson**s—F shr cond. On busline, wlk to shops, prkg, \$550 incl all. Avail now. 703-599-7931 **Falls Church**—SFH \$550.00 a month \$550. deposit & \$100 deposit on utilities. 1 br, share bath, AVAIL-ABLE NOW call 571-345-5386

**FORT WASH**—4BR house for rent or purchase, spectacular waterfront property, new home. Seller will work w/less than perfect credit 301-567-4048 lv msg.

**FORT WASH**—Furn rm for rent. Starting at \$100-200/wk. Beaut home to shr. Bus/Metro Acces,All utls + cable incl. 301-219-3234, lve msg, we will return calls promptly.

**FT WASH**—Beaut. hse to shr w/1 rm, \$125-\$225/wk, incl utls & cable, access to kit & FR. 703-296-3453

**GAITH**—Hse to share. 1 rm \$299/mo + sec dep., close to Metro, shpg ctr., M, nonsnrg. Call 301-219-1066

**GAITH**—TH to shr, furn, MBR, pvt BA. Avail. now. Short term. 1 mi to I270 Exit 11, nr Mall & bus. \$800 incl utls. 240-671-2650

**GERMANTOWN**—\$550. RM w/pvt ba. All utls incl'd. 1 min from 355, I-270 & shpgg ctr. W/D, 301-807-3396

**Herndon**—Prof. to shr 2-lvl TH, fpl, hwd flrs, deck, off st. pkg. MBR w/pvt BA \$750 incl utls, 2 BR's w/hall BA for 1 person \$750 incl utls. 703-599-6425

**HYATTSVILLE**—F pref. 2 rms avail. \$400/mo incl utls. 301-523-8895

**Lanham**—\$700, NS, prv hse, sep entr, prkg, utls incl, nr bus/rail. Avail now. 301-442-9851

**LANHAM**—1 BR, shr hse, N-smkg, \$135 week. Also 1rm \$120. Nr Metro. Call 240-645-2380

**LAUREL**—Quiet roommate needed to shr 2BR apt. \$550. incl utls, caty, balc, shr kitch 301-455-0771.

**LEESBURG**—TH to shr, pvt MBR & BA, W/D, prkg, avail immed, \$575 mo + 1/3 utls. Call 703-861-3178.

**MANASSAS**—MBR, pvt BA, dbl sink, dbl closet, internet, shprs, 66! Nice neighrhd. \$600. 703-863-9023

**MD/DC**—Furn. rms., cable, phone, w/d. Wlk to Metro. \$100/wk. 301-806-1461

**New Carrollton**—For rent w/opt to buy, 2BR 1BA condo, incl w/d, \$1250. Call Marcel at 301-728-6116

**NORTH BETHESDA**—Shr 2BR lux condo, nr White Flint Metro/shpgg cntr. W/D, CAC. \$700 utls incl 240-678-8415

**NW**—House to share, furnished rms \$500. 1 mo. rent/1 mo. security. 202-413-8097

**Petworth**—Holiday Special!unfshd rm,nr metro-, conv to shoppng, nr hwrld univ,call 202-403-1444

**RESTON**—Rent bsmt w/ pvt BA, \$900 or 1 small BR, \$500 in newly remdli SFH. 703-568-0124

**RIVERDALE**—2BR in basement of shared TH. 1/2mi from College Park. \$500ea. Call 301-675-9597 or 443-854-1221.

**ROCKV**—SFH in Aspen Hill area totally renov. 2 rms avail. From \$450 to \$500 + 1 mo sec deposit. Utls incl. no pets. N/S. Close to public trans & stores. 301-758-7313 Tony

**SIL SPG/ADELPHI**—Bsmt apt, 3BR, 3FBA w/kit & walk out, \$1550. 301-806-3588; nr schls. 701-251-2970.

**SIL SPG/WHEATON**—Room avail in home, \$500 mo. + 1/3 utls + 1 mo deposit. N/Smkg. Call 301-942-7854

**SILVER SPRING**—Bsmt for rent in TH to shr. Price Neg. 240-832-4166

**South Riding**—Prof nsmkr shr 3 br 2 ba twnhs in comm. w/ pool & gym. \$500/mo. Util included. Sec Dep rgd. Call Chris 703-209-3896

**SPGFLD/Cardinal Fort**—Updated 2BR 1½BA, new cprt, appcls, on busline, nr schls. \$1200. 703-606-7094.

**SPGFLD, N**—Shr SFH, rm. \$500 incls all utls., internet & cable. Close to Braddock Rd. 703-314-2307

**Springfield**—\$750,room for rent and bath 5605 southampton dr, heat, water, elec, all utilities 703-272-7185

**SPRINGFIELD**—Quiet M to shr nice TH w/M, wlk to bus & shops, \$400 & \$425 mo + utls. 703-256-0854

**TYSONS/MCLEAN**—Lux condo to shr. Beaut rm w/pvt BA. \$650/mo + 1/2 utls. N/S. F. no pets. 703-899-3309

**UPPER MARLBORO**—3br,full bth ,lg TH,furn rm, \$400/mo utl incld

**WALDORF - 2 TO CHOOSE**—Split lvl. 4BR, 2BA, FP gar, \$1750; TH, 3BR, 2½BA, FP \$1700; 301-399-1125 **WALDORF**—Huge SFH to shr. BRs avail. \$600-\$800/mo. 202-246-4233 or 202-577-3097

**WHITE FLINT/N. BETHESDA**—BR in a gorgeous neat hse. Female preferred. \$475. 301-792-0309 or 301-931-3310

CONDOS FOR SALE

**ADELPHI**—2BR 1BA. Owner/Agent. \$175,000 plus \$5,000 Closing Help. 240-672-7080. **ALEX**—Spacious Penthouse,2br,2ba,2 spc garg-, \$270k seller pays ALL closing Open Hse 12/2 frm 1-3p,5911 Edsall Rd PH14 call for details 202-345-7955

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Unit 134 at 1301 N. Ode St. is penthouse perfection and offers \$3000 in buyer closing costs. Offered by Philip Bogert, Jobin Realty 703-338-5480  
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**Walk to Metro for new 2BR/2BA**  
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Unique upgraded 3BR + den, 2FBA apt on upper flr w/ spectacular view. 1 of a kind gourmet kitch, 2 gar spcs, indr/outdr pools, hlth club, 7 tennis cts (4 lighted), putting green & so much more.  
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**Fairfax Realty 301-881-9800.**  
**Germantown**—\$260,000, large Condo, 1545 sf, 4 br, 2 ba, 240-994-5685. **Je parle francais.**  
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**Oceanfront Condominium**  
2311 South Ocean Blvd., Myrtle Beach, built 2001, 1100 sf, 2 br, 2 ba, Tile Fls. The penthouse; you'll love the magnificent panoramic ocean view. Bring in the New Year here! 4 minutes to MB jetport. New furniture. 2006 rentals, \$38,000. Instant equity, balc, new carpet. Call Agent Eddie Boyd @ 843-903-7645. **Re/Max Palmetto Properties**

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REDUCTION! 4BR 4BA renv brk ram surr by \$3M homes! 202-468-9988

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**BRICK COLONIAL**—Hist Charm&Eleg,2900 sqft-, 4br,2.5ba,slate rf,fl bsmtd,dtch gar,frnt prch,Mark 804-363-2052 Pitts&Manns Realty Inc.

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**JUST REDUCED! Nr Quantico**, Updtd split foyer, 4BR, 2BA, FR w/frpcl, grg, hot tub, corner lot. 18001 Wilmer Porter CT. **View Properites 703-877-6921**  
**FT WASH/TANTALLON N. \$749,250/Offer**—6BR, 3.5BA all brick Colonial, fin bsmt, heated pool, spa, deck, jacuzzi & more. Barry 301-203-3402. **Re/Max FT. WASHINGTON**—Split foyer, 4BR, new kitchen, baths, roof & carpet. \$329,990.  
**Mansfield Realtors, 301-346-3649**  
**HARRISONBURG**—Business for sale w/National name. Super visible location on rte 33. Call Cara Lee @ Lee & Associates:

540-433-7222 or 800-351-6223  
**HYATTSVILLE**—3BR, 2FBA SFH w/lovely bsmt apt, 1 offc. nr PG Metro. Pvt entr. \$335,000. 301-209-1028

**LAKERIDGE**—Buy home with \$500 or less. Closing costs paid! 3, 4, 5 BR. Surrounding areas also. Troubled credit ok. 100s to choose from. Call Scott Phillips, Coldwell Banker Residential, 540-226-0492

**LAKERIDGE**—RENT W/ OPT TO BUY. CIs to VRE. 3, 4 & 5 BR homes. 1500+/mo. Troubled credit ok. Surrounding areas also. Call Ryan Lynch, Coldwell Banker Residential, 703-981-4969

**LANHAM - OPEN HOUSE/AUCTION SAT/SUN 12-5**  
—Spacious, 4BR, 2½BA split foyer on a large corner lot, ice driveway, freshly painted, new kitc appls, new carpet, fpl. Closing help, buyer agent welcome. 6017 Harland St. Call 866-444-4402.

**Lanham \$360,000**  
**\$10,000 Closing Cost Help!**  
OPEN SAT 12/02 1 to 4PM SFH Split Foyer, 3 BR, 2Ba, HW floors, New Kitchen Fenced yard w/deck. Affordable and easy to own. Stop by the OPEN HOUSE at 6409 Brays St or call for appt. Art Eustace@240-793-4554 (cell).

**CENTURY 21 Village Realty**  
**301-963-7800 ext 111**  
**LAUREL**—Large 3 bdrms/2 1/2 bath townhome. Saturday, December 2 1:00PM - 3:00PM  
**14909 Belle Ami Drive, #75.**  
Rene Shorter, Re/Max Allegiance (301) 577-0800

**LOCUST GROVE NEW TOWNHOMES \$239,900**  
4BR, 3-1/2BA, 3 fin. lvls, 1 car gar, 2700 sq ft. Dir: Rte 3W, 15 mi. to 95.  
**A & K 540-972-2000 or 540-760-9001**  
**Manassas**—\$599,900. 4BR,3.5 Col. 1.71 acres, Deck, PatioFrpl, Media Rm w/ 120in big screen. Cheryl Kenny 703-338-2980 **CROSSROADS REALTY**  
**Montgomery Village**—\$385,000, Townhouse, 5 br, 3 ba, 1 1/2ba, 3 Fls, eat-in kitchen, fenced yard, deck, fp, 240-994-5685

**Elisabeth Aronez**  
**Fairfax Realty, Inc**

**NEED TO Buy or Sell Your Home In This Tough Market?**! I'll work hard with you to make it happen!  
**Call Ms. Njeri Clark Keller Williams Preferred Properties, 202-487-7131**

**NEW CARROLLTON**—Move-in ready. \$330,000. 301-346-7001

**NW/GA AVE \$1,000-\$2,500/mo**  
3 stry hse used for multi. purposes such as store, church or ofc. Incls. 2-2BR apts or entire bldg - \$4800. Also option to buy. 301-277-5711 (O); 301-728-1646 (C)

**Oak Hill 12556 Quincey Adams Ct \$619K SPECIAL OFFER**  
15 DAYS ONLY!—4BR, 2FBA & 2HBA, fin bsmt, hwd flrs, & in-ground heated pool w/jacuzzi. FSBO. **Open House Sun 12/03 1-4pm. Call Hugh, Hm: 703-476-7187 wrk: 703-914-8700, ext 1301**

**Ocean Front Cocoa Beach Fl \$318,000**  
**Great location!**

**walk to Ron-Jons or Cocoa Beach pier**  
\$318000, 5000 Ocean Beach Blvd, Condominium, built 1972, 1168 sf, 2 br, 2 ba, 1 Fls, 1 Car Attached gar, eat-in kitchen, balc, new carpet, brick front, 800-819-2830

**Deam Home Realty Inc**  
**Ron Riggs 407-869-4529**

**Onancock**—\$1,490,000, 15234 East Road, Water-front Estate, All brick, 3 br, 3 ba, 2 Car Detached gar, form dr, form lr, hw flrs, fp, 5.8 acs. 600ft frontage. 757-665-4303

**PROBLEM CREDIT OK!!**  
**Manassas**—\$315000, 9340 fringe tree lane, Town-house/Townhome, built 1995, 1656 sf, 3 br, 2 ba, 1 1/2ba, 3 Fls, eat-in kitchen, fenced yard, newer appliances. Small Down, \$2800 per month. 703-869-9433

**Jeff Cournoyer**  
**Remax Premier**

**REMODELED 3-4 BR HOMES**  
Low \$200's. Financing avail.  
Call now 240-498-4073  
Prudential Carruthers

**SANTA'S SPECIAL**  
**OVER 900 FT.**  
**CREEK FRONTAGE**  
**PRIVATE RIVER ACCESS**  
**23+ ACRES-\$124,900**

This mtn. property has everything you want! Creek, usability, and long range mtn. views! Low financing. Call now for more details! **1-800-888-1262**

**Shelltown, MD—\$199k. Sportsman's Paradise.** 17 ac property. Potential for great hunting club for prime deer & bird hunting. Mobile home w/2BR. Detach 4-car gar w/2nd fr unfn 1BR apt. Several out bldgs. 2 mi to public boat ramp & Pocomoke Rvr. 1 hr to Ocean City. **Tull & Price, Inc., 800-968-0478. info@tullandprice.com www.tullandprice.com**

**SIL SPG/705 DENNIS AV.**—Desperate owner must sell. 3BR, 1 BA. Appr \$415,000; selling for \$345,000 obo. Call Anne 301 512-7421

**Southeast Capitol Hill \$320,900**  
**New Townhome for sell by owner**  
\$320,900, 1628, 27th Street, 4 br, 2 ba, 1 1/2ba, new appliances, new carpet, brick front, 301-996-6277

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# LOOK out

\* TRENDS, CULTURE, DISCOVERIES, IDEAS, PEOPLE

## Families

### Kids growing up at a faster pace; parents find ways to hold on

Zach Plante is close with his parents — he plays baseball with them and, on weekends, helps with work in the small vineyard they keep at their northern California home.

Lately, though, his parents have begun to notice subtle changes in their son. Among other things, he's announced that he wants to grow his hair longer — and sometimes greets his father with "Yo, Dad!"

"Little comments will come out of his mouth that have a bit of that teen swagger," says Tom Plante, Zach's dad.

The thing is, Zach isn't a teen. He's 10 years old — one part, a fun-loving fifth-grader who likes to watch the Animal Planet network, the other a soon-to-be middle schooler who wants an iPod.

In some ways, it's simply part of a kid's natural journey toward independence. But child development experts say physical and behavioral changes that would have been typical of teenagers decades ago are now common among "twens" — kids ages 8 to 12.

Some of them are going on "dates" and talking on their own cell phones. They listen to sexually charged pop music, play mature-rated video games and spend time gossiping on MySpace. And more girls are wearing makeup and clothing that some consider beyond their years.

Zach is starting to notice it in his friends, too, especially the way they treat their parents.

"A lot of kids can sometimes be annoyed by their parents," he says. "If I'm playing with them at one of their houses, then they kind of ignore their parents. If their parents do them a favor, they might just



**SON RISE, SON SET:** Ten-year-old Natalie Wickstrom practices the piano; Zach Plante, also 10, and his parents play together. Their parents worry about adult influences.

INSIDE

Eva Longoria to wed Tony Parker | 42



**Live Online:** Chatting with Adrian Fenty | 40

**Blog Log:** Sadness over lost yellow Wiggle | 40



**SON RISE, SON SET:** Ten-year-old Natalie Wickstrom practices the piano; Zach Plante, also 10, and his parents play together. Their parents worry about adult influences.

# Life in Be-Tween

say, 'OK,' but not notice that much."

The shift that's turning tweens into the new teens is complex — and worrisome to parents and some professionals who deal with children. They wonder if kids are equipped to handle the thorny issues that come with the adolescent world.

"I'm sure this isn't the first time in history people have been talking about it. But I definitely feel like these kids are growing up faster — and I'm not sure it's always a good thing," says Dr. Liz Alderman, an adolescent medicine specialist at Montefiore Medical Center in New York City. She's been in practice for 16 years and has noticed a gradual but undeniable change in attitude in that time.

She and others who study and treat children say the reasons it's

**"I think I bought my first ABBA single at 13 or 14 — and here my 7-year-old wants me to download Kelly Clarkson all the time."**

CLAIRE UNTERSEHER  
CHICAGO MOTHER

happening are both physical and social.

Several published studies have found, for instance, that some tweens' bodies are developing faster, with more girls starting menstruation in elementary school — a result doctors often attribute to improved nutrition and, in some cases, obesity. While boys are still being studied,

the findings about girls have caused some endocrinologists to lower the limits of early breast development to first or second grade.

Beyond the drugs, sex and rock 'n' roll their boomer and Gen X parents navigated, technology and consumerism have accelerated the pace of life, giving kids easy access to influences that may or may not be parent-approved. Sex, violence and foul language that used to be relegated to late-night viewing and R-rated movies are expected fixtures in everyday TV.

Diane Levin, a professor of human development and early childhood at Wheelock College in Boston, is among those who've taken aim at toys deemed too violent or sexual.

"We've crossed a line. We can

no longer avoid it — it's just so in our face," says Levin, author of the upcoming book "So Sexy So Soon: The Sexualization of Childhood."

Earlier this year, she and others from a group known as the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood successfully pressured Hasbro to drop plans for a line of children's toys modeled after the singing group Pussycat Dolls.

Other parents, including Clyde Otis III, are trying their own methods. "I don't want to be like a prude. But some of the stuff out there, it's just out of control sometimes," says Otis, a father of three from Maplewood, N.J.

"Beyonce singing about bouncing her butt all over the place is a little much — at least for an 8-year-old." MARTHA IRVINE (AP)



 from readexpress.com

## Local Clubs Sing the Blues

**MUSIC** | The prospect of the House of Blues opening a location in the nation's capital isn't music to the ears of local club owners. As The Washington Post reported on Thursday, the National Capital Revitalization Corp. has a non-binding agreement with the national live music venue chain to build a location near 5th and I streets NW, east of Mount Vernon Square. The owner of the 9:30 Club, for instance, says he'll lose half his business.

While the House of Blues' exact effect on local clubs, ticket prices and other promotions dynamics is hard to predict, in the past half-year, a collection of new music venues and bars on H Street NE has opened to the music-loving public.

If a House of Blues outpost opens in the nation's capital, it will be interesting to see if the District's ever-so-particular cadre of music hipsters — The New York Times on Thursday described the Black Cat as having an “eclectically raffish crowd” — would ever embrace the ever-so-corporate Clear Channel-owned House of Blues. But perhaps that's looking too far ahead. Many music scenesters haven't warmed up to the emerging — and still somewhat inaccessible — H Street scene yet. **MICHAEL GRASS (EXPRESS)**

### U R Cute, C U @ 8? :->

**DATING** | Technology sure has changed the dating scene and **OOOHBARRACUDA.BLOGSPOT.COM**



**COMPETITION** : In the coming years, will Justin Timberlake play the 9:30 Club?

refuses to be courted via text message. After she told one boy she wasn't interested, he continued to send her cute text messages and asked her to lunch. The whole thing left her wondering: “Is it really OK to text ... someone ... who has made it clear that they don't like you like that because a text isn't a ‘big deal’ the way a phone call apparently must be these days?” Needless to say, she didn't

return his text to schedule lunch for “another time.”

What is the proper dating etiquette? Send your thoughts to **COMMENTS@READEXPRESS.COM**. **KELLY DINARDO**

### → Coming Up Today

As the Nationals' new ballpark is built, nearby buildings are torn down. And many business owners have nowhere to go, especially Northeast.

## ? Poll Center

### TODAY'S QUESTION

Does the D.C. area overreact to the threat of snow?

1. Yes
2. No

### YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Should fast food chains be forced to cut trans fats?

**YES** **NO**

69% 31%

As of 6:10 p.m. Thursdy. Not a scientific poll

GIVE YOUR OPINION ON TODAY'S POLL QUESTION AND GET A STATION-BY-STATION BREAKDOWN OF HOW YOUR FELLOW METRORAIL COMMUTERS VOTED AT **READEXPRESS.COM/POLLCENTER.PHP**



“Oh, I am so excited about my first Chicago snowstorm. Snow me in, baby; I am on vacation.”

UNLIKE MOST WASHINGTON-AREA RESIDENTS, **BABYBANANA.BLOGSPOT.COM** WELCOMES THE SNOW THAT IS FALLING AROUND THE BLOGGER WHILE VISITING THE WINDY CITY. LOCALLY, IT WILL BE WINDY TODAY, WITH SOME RAIN POSSIBLE AND COOLER TEMPERATURES EXPECTED FOR THE WEEKEND.

## Saudi Influence

“Saudi Arabia may be telling the U.S. to get out and let a new balance of power emerge in the Middle East. Whatever the risks involved with a possible Saudi-Iranian clash in Iraq, now might be a good time for Bush to listen to his friends in Riyadh.”

**THEMODERATEVOICE.COM** ON THE ROLE OF SAUDI ARABIA IN SHAPING MIDEAST POLICY.

## Suburban Mystery

“... [T]his has been at least the fourth time this year that this specific Quizno's has been closed due to a supposed ‘electrical problem.’ ... [E]very time this happens, all the other stores in the same strip mall are coincidentally operating just fine.”

**THEUPSTATELIFE.COM** WORKS NEAR A MYSTERIOUS QUIZNO'S IN MARYLAND.



## Hearing the High Court

“Releasing same-day audio tapes of ALL Supreme Court oral arguments, regardless of the level of ‘public interest,’ would take a clean, bright-line approach to the issue. It would allow the public to learn more about the workings of the court, but without intrusion of cameras in the courtroom.”

**ABOVETHELAW.COM**

## Kids Denied Original Yellow Wiggle

“The funniest thing about the article is the fact that Murry (red shirt) said kids won't even notice. They'll just see a yellow shirt and black hair and just assume it's Greg. No word on if they will make the poor guy change his name.”

**MATTTULLIS.BLOGSPOT.COM** RELAYS NEWS ABOUT GREG, THE YELLOW-SHIRTED MEMBER OF THE POPULAR “WIGGLES” CHILDREN'S GROUP, WHO REPORTEDLY LEFT THE GROUP DUE TO HEALTH REASONS.



## Live Online

## The Next Mayor

Washington, D.C., Mayor-elect **ADRI-AN FENTY** was online on Thursday at [washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com) to discuss his plans for improving the city when he takes charge Jan. 2.

### How do you plan to address the homeless problem in D.C.?



Though there are a variety of different factors to solve homelessness, the core of our best practices centers [on] affordable housing. Our policies will be similar to those found in San Francisco and New York, where supportive affordable housing is used instead of sending homeless residents immediately to shelters.

**I am deeply concerned and feel threatened by the wave of gentrification in the city. Already, the city is planning on “relocating” me and my family and neighbors, so they can resell my apartment to developers.**

### How do you plan to stop this?

Every housing project is different, but I believe that, as mayor, if I make sure that each renovation project guarantees one-for-one replacement of everyone who is currently in the development that we can go a long way toward preventing problems like yours and others.

**What is the No. 1 [thing] you hope to accomplish for the city during your term?** Dramatically improve our public education system.

**Will you push the statehood issue?** Yes. I plan to raise the issue then and consistently until we get our full franchise.

**Did school superintendent [Clifford] Janey's presentation change your mind about how you want to approach working with the school board?**

I commend school Superintendent Janey for his state of DCPS. We both share the belief that the school system needs to move forward quicker and with more efficiency and effectiveness. Over the next month, I will look at different ways that I can improve the effectiveness of the superintendent.

# DON'T

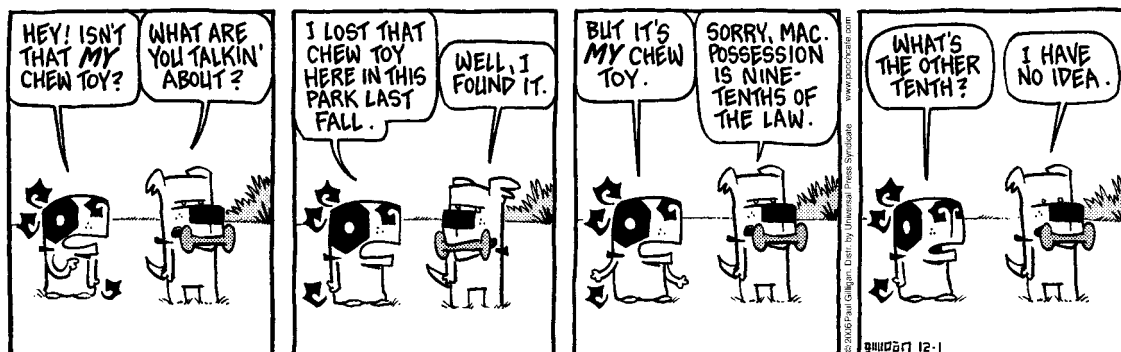
**FORGET THE TROOPS.** Supporting the troops is more than just putting a ribbon magnet on your car. It's about giving them CDs, DVDs, cameras, phone cards and snacks, too. Operation Gratitude ([opgratitude.com](http://opgratitude.com)) provides a holiday wish list and a way to give.

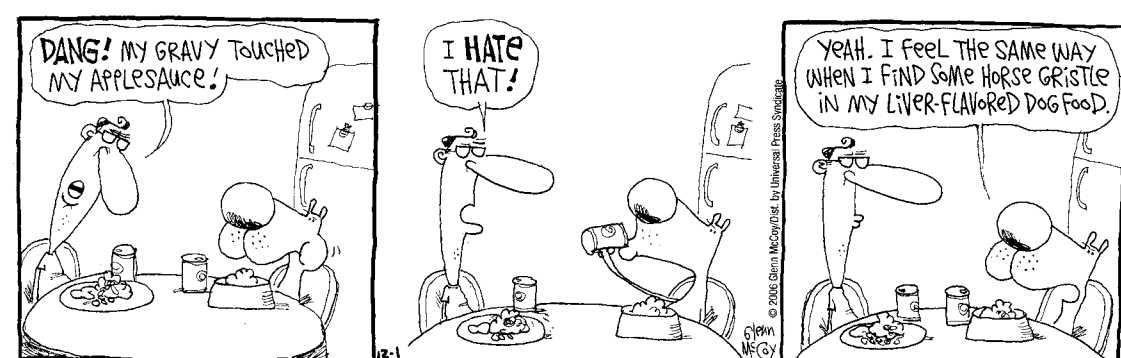
**TODAY ON LIVE ONLINE:** Director Catherine Hardwicke will take questions about her new film, “The Nativity Story,” at 12:15 p.m. | [washingtonpost.com/liveonline](http://washingtonpost.com/liveonline)



**Bizarro** | Dan Piraro

**Cornered** | Mike Baldwin

**Pooch Cafe** | Paul Gilligan

**Pearls Before Swine** | Stephan Pastis

**The Duplex** | Glenn McCoy


## Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** It's up to you to provide others with certain key needs at this time. Never fear: Your efforts will not go unrecognized — or unrewarded.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** You can avoid any serious emotional pitfalls — provided you pinpoint your current vulnerability as early as possible.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** Take care of your mental, physical and emotional health. Make time for a visit to someone who knows you well; speak frankly to him or her.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)** Your luck is likely to increase, but this does not mean you should throw caution to the wind. You actually have cause to play it safer than usual.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** A down-to-earth approach is advised. You want to keep yourself from building castles in the air; stick to what you know.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** You'll find yourself quickly swept up in another's

pet cause — but you can do some good work and contribute a great deal toward major progress.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** Now is no time to sit back and let opportunities pass you by; you have many choices to make, and one or two may defy your usual rationale.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** Spend some time alone to recharge your emotional, spiritual batteries. You've been too willing to get caught up in the grind.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** You must be willing to live up to your duties and obligations. Shirk, and you'll pay for it for some time to come.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** You may find it difficult to communicate openly with a loved one or co-worker. There is more to this dilemma than meets the eye.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** You'll win a good deal of respect, but come nightfall you may do something that may risk everything you've gained to this point.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** Don't be fooled: What you don't know can, indeed, hurt you — and those around you, as well. If you don't know what you're doing, don't meddle.

## Letters

**Nursing, Sex Not Comparable**

**WHILE SEX IS A NOTABLE** example of an unacceptable public behavior, I fail to see the relevant comparison it bears to a woman nursing her child ("Breast-Feed in Private," Nov. 28). An infant must eat fre-

quently for its nourishment and well-being, if not for the sake of silence, whereas sex can obviously be delayed until a couple is behind closed doors. It is unfortunate that because breasts are so sexually coveted, their important biological purpose is shamed and discouraged.

—GABRIELLE MASTEN  
Derwood, Md.

**WRITE TO EXPRESS:** Include name, hometown and telephone number. Submissions may be edited. E-mail to [inbox@readexpress.com](mailto:inbox@readexpress.com) or mail to Express Letters, PO Box 17370, Arlington, VA 22216.

## Today in History

**1904** The Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis closes after seven months and some 20 million visitors.

**1921** The Navy flies the first non-rigid dirigible to use helium; the C-7 travels from Hampton Roads, Va., to Washington, D.C..

**1955** Rosa Parks, a black seamstress, refuses to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Ala., city bus. Mrs. Parks is arrested, sparking a yearlong boycott of the buses by blacks.



Rosa Parks was arrested today in 1955 after refusing to give up her bus seat.

**1996** The Arab League holds a meeting in Cairo, after which it warns Israel that peace efforts will be endangered if Israel insists on expanding Jewish settlements.



# LOOK out People



Now that's a presidential ticket!

## MEETINGS

### Obama and Ludacris Rap Together, but Not Musically

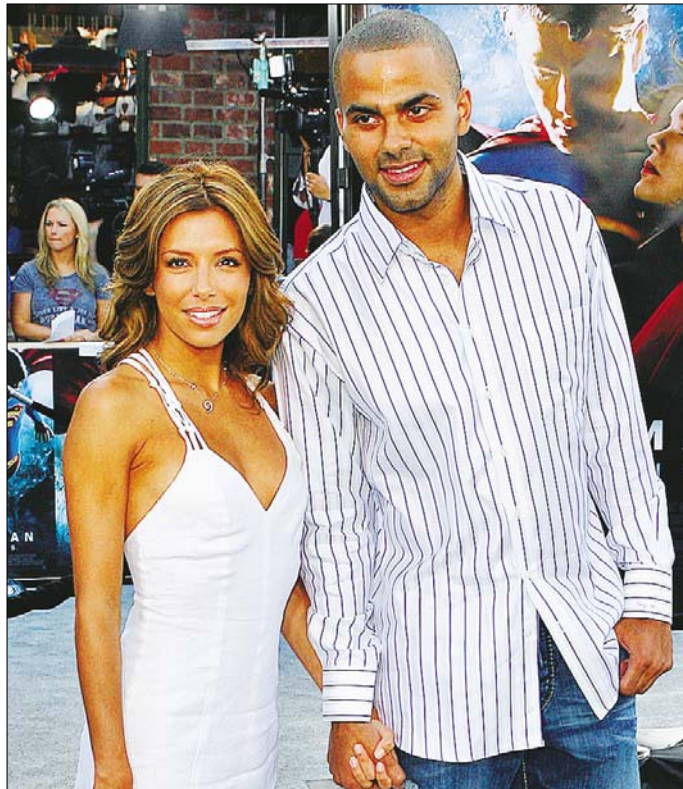
**BARACK OBAMA** met privately with **LUDACRIS** on Wednesday. "We talked about empowering the youth," said the rapper. Ludacris was in town to launch the YouthAIDS "Kick Me" campaign to raise HIV/AIDS awareness during a stop at Northwestern University in the Chicago suburb of Evanston. (AP)

## SWINGER

### So What Does That Make Vanessa Minnillo, Huh?



**NICK LACHEY** is the latest celebrity to stake ownership in a Triple-A baseball team. Lachey was introduced Wednesday as a part-owner of the Tacoma Rainiers. "Sports for me ... is truly my passion," said Lachey. (AP)



## PROPOSALS

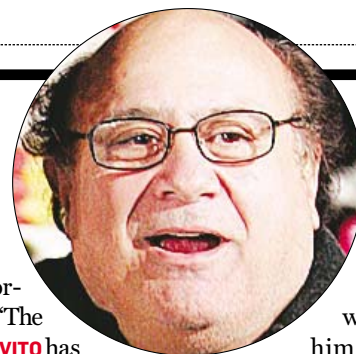
### Borat, Stay Away!

**HER MARRIAGE DIDN'T WORK OUT** on "Desperate Housewives," but things are looking rosy in real life for Eva Longoria: She's engaged to basketball star Tony Parker. "Tony flew into Los Angeles last night after his game and surprised Eva at her home as she got off work," Liza Anderson told The Associated Press on Thursday via e-mail. "The proposal was romantic and perfect." (AP)

## BOOZING

### See, Mel? Not All Drunk Celebrities Are Bigoted

An especially colorful appearance on "The View" by **DANNY DEVITO** has eyebrows raised and tongues wagging that the veteran actor may not have been himself Wednesday morning. DeVito said he'd been drinking with George Clooney the night



He lost his neck in a tragic accident.

before, and that "it was the last seven Limoncellos that were going to get" him. DeVito's publicist told TMZ.com the actor had asked for Barbara Walters' phone number so he could tell her "what needed to be said privately." Walters produces the television show. (AP)

## EVICIONS

### Anna Nicole Told to Leave

A former boyfriend of **ANNA NICOLE SMITH** has obtained a court judgment ordering her out of her residence and he plans to seek her forcible eviction unless she leaves by Thursday.



Howard K. Stern, an attorney who is Smith's companion, said the judgement was "improperly obtained." (AP)

## IF ONLY

### Judge Indicts Media for Inflating Adoption Issue

**MADONNA** accepted a Malawian High Court ruling allowing a coalition of human rights groups to monitor her as she tries to adopt a Malawian toddler. A judge ruled Wednesday that two groups could join the adoption process as friends of the court and pursue their application for a full judicial review of the interim custody order he granted to Madonna and her husband. (AP)

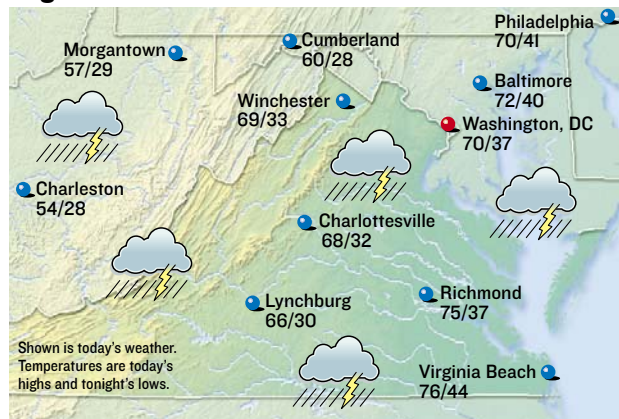


Madonna has vowed not to style her hair again until the adoption is final.

## 5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<b>70°</b>	<b>37°</b>	<b>52° / 34°</b>	<b>48° / 33°</b>	<b>44° / 27°</b>	<b>46° / 33°</b>

## Regional Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2006

## Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Thur.

### Temperature

High	70°
Low	50°
Normal high	52°
Normal low	36°
Average humidity	79%

### Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	Trace
Month to date	5.16"
Normal month to date	3.03"
Year to date	46.21"
Last year to date	41.04"
Normal year to date	36.30"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see:  
[washingtonpost.com/weather](http://washingtonpost.com/weather)

## Regional Forecast

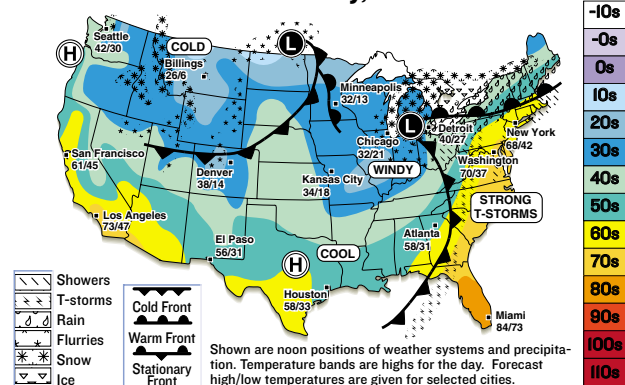
**D.C. Metro:** Today, mostly cloudy, thunderstorm. High 70. Wind south-southwest 12-25 mph. Tonight, mostly cloudy, shower. Low 37.

## Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	7:07 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:47 p.m.
Moonrise today	2:18 p.m.
Moonset today	3:07 a.m.



## National Weather for Friday, December 1



## National Cities

City	Today	Sat.
Atlanta	58/31/t	56/37/pc
Boston	64/40/t	51/33/pc
Chicago	32/21/sn	34/15/pc
Dallas	54/30/s	51/29/s
Denver	38/14/pc	27/8/sn
Honolulu	82/70/pc	81/72/pc
Los Angeles	73/47/s	75/47/s
Miami	84/73/pc	85/73/pc
New York City	68/42/t	49/38/pc
Orlando	83/62/pc	80/60/c
Seattle	42/30/pc	41/31/pc

## World Cities

City	Today	Sat.
Amsterdam	54/46/pc	48/46/c
Athens	61/46/s	61/45/s
Berlin	48/41/s	52/41/pc
Buenos Aires	88/63/t	81/63/pc
Calgary	11/-5/sf	11/2/c
Dublin	54/41/pc	50/41/c
Geneva	56/36/pc	56/43/r
Moscow	38/24/sn	36/24/c
Rome	61/43/pc	61/43/pc
Sydney	86/68/s	76/64/r
Tokyo	54/42/pc	53/41/s

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.



# LOOK out

## Together Again

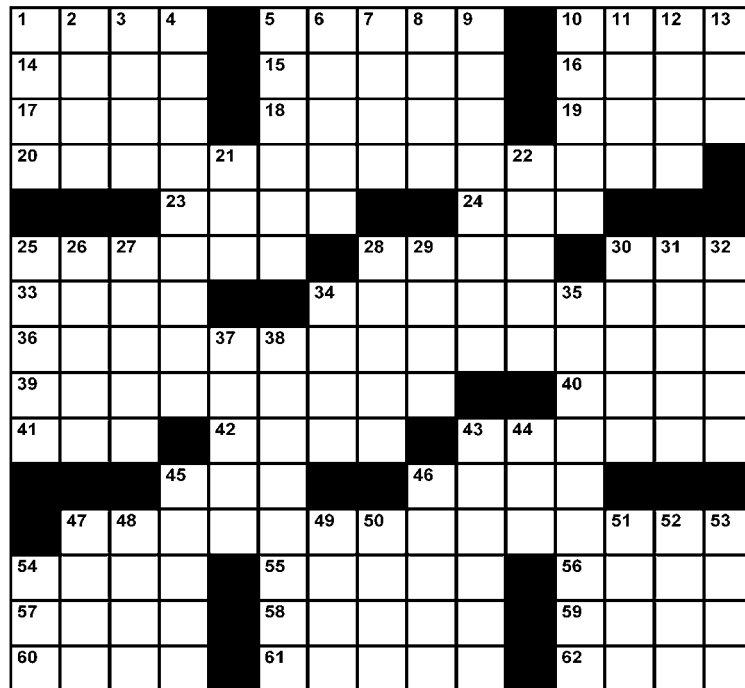
### ACROSS

1 Take \_\_\_ it comes  
5 "\_\_\_ of Two Cities"  
10 Directed  
14 Magic power  
15 Board, as a train  
16 Together, in music  
17 Sixth-day creation  
18 \_\_\_-Unis  
19 Crafted  
20 Family financial figure  
23 Rhode Island fowls  
24 "So, there you are!"  
25 Eye covering  
28 Entice  
30 Span. lady  
33 It goes with wash  
34 Petitions  
36 Name in the news  
39 Baby baskets  
40 Ancient theaters  
41 No seats sign, briefly  
42 Actor Kilmer and namesakes  
43 "Gorillas in the Mist" author Dian  
45 Legal matter  
46 LECTERN platform  
47 Its logo contains two U's  
54 Enfant terrible  
55 Military incendiary  
56 Terrible market share

57 Freedom from hardship  
58 Cast pearls before \_\_\_  
59 Gentle firelight, e.g.  
60 "Oh, me!"  
61 Actress Samantha  
62 Cause for a child's punishment, perhaps

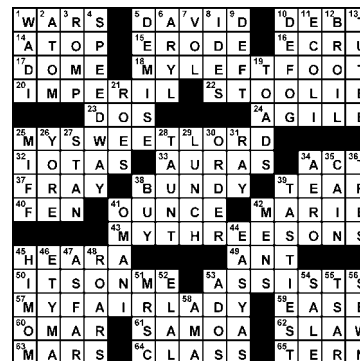
### DOWN

1 Apple that's plugged in  
2 List type  
3 In \_\_\_ (in hot water)  
4 Some hats  
5 It may be hidden  
6 Places for tricornes  
7 Just \_\_\_ (not much)  
8 Auctioneer's first offering  
9 Caught  
10 Polynesian island group  
11 Wax-wrapped cheese  
12 Titian's "Venus of Urbino," e.g.  
13 Kind of time  
21 Comparative of "y"  
22 Aviary sound  
25 Some lab specimens  
26 Migrants' advocate Chavez  
27 Attachment to a rodeo saddle, often  
28 Some Baltic natives



29 Gadgets' concerns  
30 Garage relatives  
31 Visit for a second time  
32 Put to the test  
34 Yellow, edible Indian fruit  
35 Channel events  
37 Musk-secreting mammal  
38 Somehow  
43 Crop producer  
44 Squeak-stopping application  
45 "Maude" star  
46 Singer Ross  
47 \_\_\_-Altaic languages  
48 Org. with many missions  
49 Animated TV deputy  
50 Make \_\_\_ of oneself  
51 Vincent Lopez hit of 1922  
52 Grandson of 17-Across  
53 Hems but doesn't haw  
54 "Maude" star Arthur

## Yesterday's Solution



## Su | do | ku

Degree of Difficulty: HARD

Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

## Yesterday's Solution

7	6	1	8	9	4	3	2	5
4	3	2	1	5	6	7	8	9
8	9	5	7	2	3	4	1	6
6	4	7	3	1	2	9	5	8
9	5	3	6	7	8	1	4	2
1	2	8	9	4	5	6	3	7
5	1	6	4	8	9	2	7	3
2	7	9	5	3	1	8	6	4
3	8	4	2	6	7	5	9	1

		1	3		9			8
					7	9		
		2		6				3
	5						6	
4								2
	6						1	
8				7		1		
		9	5					
6			4		1	7		

## Need more Su | do | ku?

Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section every Monday through Saturday.

**express**

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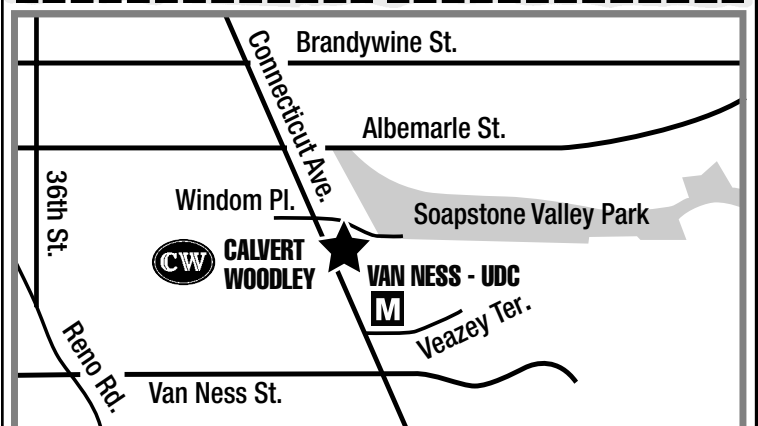
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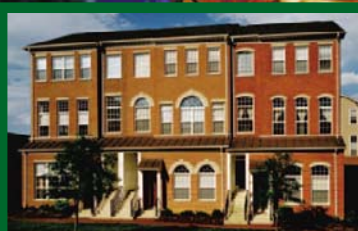
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# Weekend Style

DEC. 1-3, 2006



**Karate Kid:**  
Slater's gone  
clean, kicking  
some butt in  
'Bobby' | **E2**

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the yule's balls, eves  
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# face QA time

■ **Except for the assassin**, Christian Slater plays the only bad guy in "Bobby," Emilio Estevez's ensemble flick about the day RFK was shot. Just as his kitchen manager character reforms (at least a little), the naughty actor has also been undergoing a transformation recently. Trading wild nights for daddy duties seems to suit the 37-year-old star.

**Bobby Kennedy was such an icon. Do any politicians today match up?** Barack Obama. Through this movie, I've gotten to meet him and he was very cool. He's got charisma, charm, style, a nice smile and kind eyes. And he seems to have a good head on his shoulders, too.

**The main character of the movie is the Ambassador Hotel. Are there any places that are particularly special to you?**

Where I went with my son this summer to Africa to Richard Branson's private game reserve, Ulusaba. It means "place of little fear." It's magical and gorgeous and you see these prides of lions and elephant herds and rhinos. That place — I loved it more than anywhere I've been in the world. It was great to

get away from everything, too. We went into town and they don't have politics or glamour magazines, but there's no crime and there's a real sense of community. Then we flew back into London when the terror threat hit, and I thought, "This is what we call civilization?"

**You play the head of the kitchen in "Bobby." I'm guessing you've never worked in a restaurant, but are you a chef at home?**

Honestly, no. I've pretended to do it in movies. I may have an undiscovered talent that's in me, but I've haven't been in one place long enough to try.

**From your bag here, I see you like gum a whole lot.**

I'm trying to wean myself off the



GETTY IMAGES

## Christian Slater

ACTOR, STARRING IN 'BOBBY'

**Nicorette.** I've been on it for a year and a half, and the gum seems like a reasonable alternative. I keep seeing interviews of myself chomping, and that's not good. It gives me pleasure, so I do it to excess.

**What else is giving you pleasure these days?**

My children. We've been horseback riding and having adventures run-

ning around the globe. We've gone to New York, and it was fun living in London for a few months.

**Did you pick up an accent?**

Just certain words. Mate. Cheers. They're still with me.

**Are you a gadget guy?**

I love going to the Apple Store and seeing what I can do with my com-

"He was 2, and he'd come with me and run around and hit me with swords."

puter. I made a video in Africa.

**I hear you do karate?**

I was playing tough guys and it was embarrassing that I didn't know what the hell I was doing. So I thought I'd pick up some tips. I worked my way up through the ranks, but I didn't achieve my black belt and then I went to London. But I'll start again. My son is really into it. When I first started, he was 2 and he'd come with me and just run around and hit me with swords. Now he's always asking me to start again.

**What will you do if he gets a black belt before you?**

I'll be very proud — and very scared.

VICKY HALLETT (EXPRESS)

# IN THE POST TODAY



## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Festivals, concerts, Nutcrackers, light displays and visits from Santa, find out where to celebrate the season in Weekend's annual guide to holiday events.

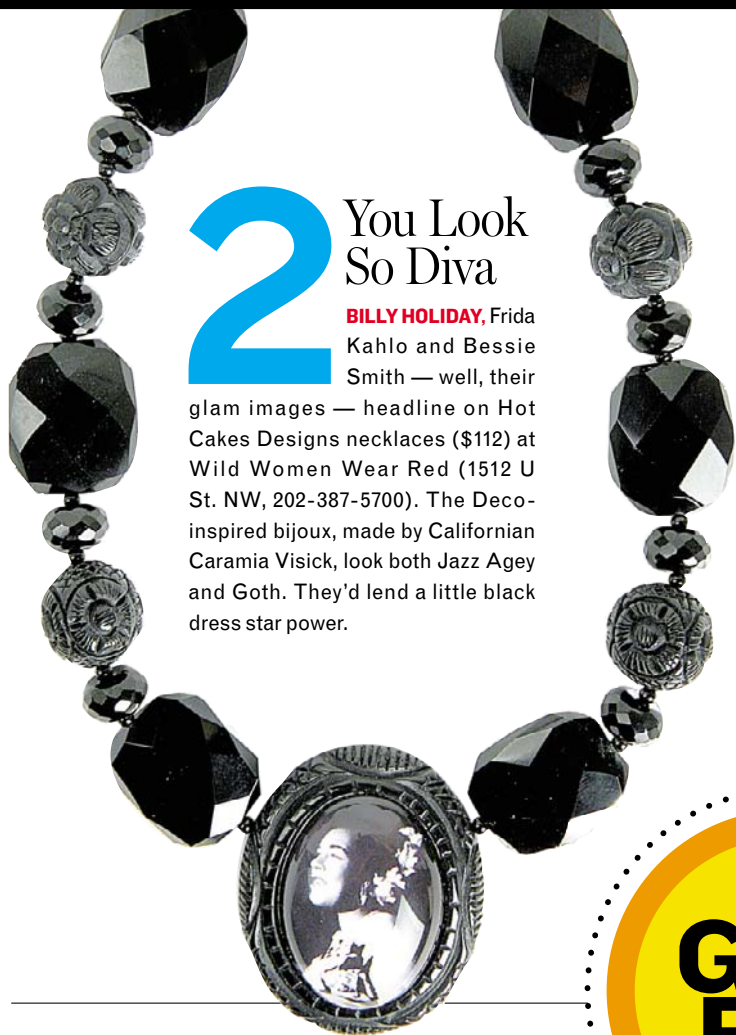
**Also in Weekend:** PlayStation 3 vs. the Wii.

Patti LaBelle goes gospel. A chat with Morgan Freeman. Plus, what's new at the movies and on DVD.

Great weekends start with the Weekend section. Get it today!

The Washington Post





## 2 You Look So Diva

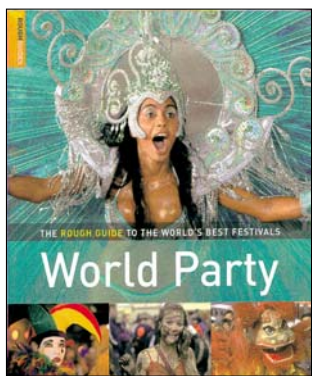
**BILLY HOLIDAY**, Frida Kahlo and Bessie Smith — well, their glam images — headline on Hot Cakes Designs necklaces (\$112) at Wild Women Wear Red (1512 U St. NW; 202-387-5700). The Deco-inspired bijoux, made by Californian Caramia Visick, look both Jazz Agey and Goth. They'd lend a little black dress star power.



## 3 A Hole New World

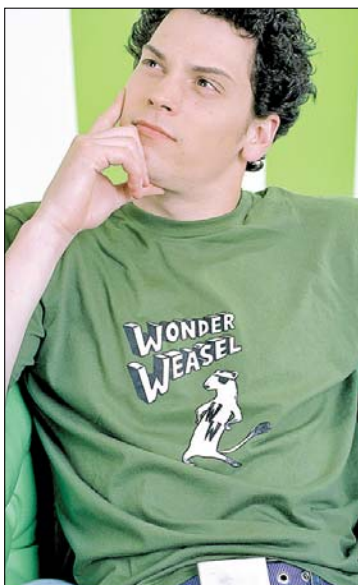
**FORGET ABOUT THE KRISPY KREME** vs. Dunkin' Donuts debate. Real fried-dough fiends are getting their fix today at the Fractured Prune (2153 P St. NW; 202-822-0880), the Ocean City chain that's finally made its way into our city. It allows customers to design their own desserts (95 cents each) from a crazy array of glazes and toppings (that's "black forest" above, with raspberry glaze, chocolate chips and coconut). Get free samples Friday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Grab Bag**



## 4 Party Planner

**LIVING IT UP** requires planning it out, so start charting your 2007 fiesta schedule with "World Party" (\$25, Rough Guides). It has everything from Pamplona and Rio Carnival to Finland's Wife-Carrying Championship and Mongolia's "Manly Games."



## The Internet Duded Up 5

**LOCAL INDIE LABEL** Webtique/style warehouse [unsungdesigners.com](http://unsungdesigners.com) (open Saturdays, noon-6 p.m., alley at 2412 18th St. NW; 202-528-9525), long a fave of femme fashionistas, just got into guy wear. Casual cool offerings range from T-shirts by D.C. talent Jon Wye (pictured, \$40) to chunky wood and silver rings (\$50) by Loving Anvil, just the thing for dons of Dupont or men of Petworth. Also nice: Etcetera Media's wool felt messenger bags.



## Global Warming

**GREEN AND RED** orbs stuffed with Currier and Ives scenes and faux flakes make us want to take a long winter nap. But Koziol's hipster snowglobes (\$10-\$17, Home Rule, 1807 14th St. NW; 202-797-5544) re-imagine the teeny freeze zones in Day-Glo brights. Rudolph and a buddy (above, \$17), stylish in shades of pink, play reindeer games against a backdrop of orange and crimson. A snowman, carrying what might be a billy club, stands in a lime-hued town that looks like Dr. Seuss' Whoville, perhaps ready to clobber the Grinch.

dear  
**manolo**

ANSWERS FROM THE SHOEBLOGGER

**I desperately need a new pair of casual winter boots, but I am a poor working girl.** —CAMPBELL

■ Manolo says, winter, it has finally arrived in the Washington, D.C., soon to bring with it the first light dusting of snow, at which point the drivers of Washington, all of whom were apparently raised in San Diego, will simultaneously lose control of their automobiles. Of the course, life must still go on, even if the streets are filled with slush and the abandoned SUVs.



The cat needs the milk and you have run out of the moisturizer, and so you must walk to the drugstore. But you want to look your best, because you never know when you may bump into that Georgetown water polo player on whom you have the small crush. Happily, you are not worried because you have recently purchased the new pair of the Timberland McKenneys (\$124, [zappos.com](http://zappos.com)), the handsome, wedge-heeled boots with the faux fur that looks most chic in that outdoor-sy-rugged way that appeals to the broad-shouldered athletic boys.



Ask the Manolo a question at [manolo@shoeblogs.com](mailto:manolo@shoeblogs.com). Visit the Manolo at [shoeblogs.com](http://shoeblogs.com).

## ON THE COVER

Express Top Model Alexandra wears a top by Julie Haus (\$260, Maggie and Lola, 1013 E St. SE; 202-234-2850), Paula Mendoza's necklace (part of a trio, \$363, Circle Boutique, 1608 17th St. NW; 202-518-2212) and Tarina Tarantino earrings (\$70, [tarinatartarantino.com](http://tarinatartarantino.com)). Photo by Michelle Repiso. Styling by Laurretta McCoy.



# Gadget → Guide '06

**Those who lack lust** for tech toys shall never know the true joy of gadget gifts: the ability to survive holiday gatherings without a whit of small talk. Instead, ward off technophobic relatives with pulsating LEDs, cheerful beeps and vigorously wielded styluses.

Though it's too late to score the much-desired PlayStation 3, there's plenty more to baffle and amaze, from the Nintendo Wii's motion-aware controller to watches that interface with cell phones. And not all gadgets plug in, such as purely analog updates of Sudoku and the basketball.

Finally, an important note to givers of gadgets: Open the box. Make sure it works. Charge it up, if needed. Because nothing's more coal-in-the-stockings sad than waiting six hours to play with a new toy — or spending Christmas morning with tech support.

KENNETH TERRELL AND VICKY HALLETT (EXPRESS)



**EQUIPPED WITH A LEICA LENS** (translation: really good) and a 10x optical (translation: really big) zoom, the five-megapixel Panasonic Lumix DMC-TZ1S takes great pics even far from the action — handy when you're stuck in the nosebleed seats at FedEx Field. (\$300, Best Buy)



**TEENY IMAGES ON A VIDEO IPOD** will strain your eyes — unless you slip on View-Video Eyewear. Through these magic glasses (which will slip over prescription specs), you can gaze at an episode of "The Office" as though it's running on a 43-inch flat-screen. It also works with personal gaming systems for better views of your butt-kicking skills. (\$350, Sharper Image)



**WORSHIP THE ENIGMA BEFORE YOU.** It is Sudoku. It is a cube. When it's finished, you'll have solved 18 puzzles in all, with rows wrapping around the cube horizontally and vertically. Beginners can enjoy solving each cube face independently, though. Prepare for Metro rubbernecking. (\$10, sudokucube.net)

## Road Warriors

Gizmos for the weary traveler — or commuter

**SURE, THE RADIO CAN** pinpoint Beltway back-ups. But the talking Magellan RoadMate 2200T can direct you around bad traffic on the spot. Or, detach it from the dash and use it as a GPS guide on hikes — it's waterproof! (\$500, magellangps.com)



**BLACKBERRIES ARE TOO STUFFY.** Sidekicks are too hip. For those Goldilockses who aren't locked into a smartphone contract, there's the just-right Treo 680, which repackages the much-admired PDA into a slimmer, more colorful casing. Its music and video capabilities make it even more fun. (around \$200 with contract, palm.com)





# holidays | Styles



**FINALLY, AN ELEGANT** way to move music from PC to stereo. The Logitech Wireless DJ is compatible with iTunes, Media Player and Musicmatch; the remote's simple to grasp. (\$250, logitech.com)



**GIVE YOUR IPOD THE GIFT OF SURROUND SOUND** this season. Or a surround speaker, at least, with this oval offering, which has a rich, warm sound. The JBL On Time also comes with a built-in clock: Set the alarm to interrupt your dreams with any song stored on your iPod. Or just tune it to your favorite AM/FM radio station. (\$250, jbl.com)

# Tuned In

Commune with phones, stereos and the airwaves



**MICROSOFT'S NEW ZUNE** has some tricks the iPod doesn't: a built-in FM radio, wireless song-sharing with other Zunes, and the option of buying tunes via an all-you-can-handle subscription. But Apple's iTunes shop (not Zune-compatible) is user-friendlier. (\$249, zune.net)



**CLOCKS ON CELL PHONES** have made the watch obsolete. Not the Sony Ericsson MBW-100, though, which interacts with mobiles via Bluetooth. Glance at your wrist to check your caller ID; with Sony Walkman phones, control the tunes, too. (\$399, shop.wireless.sonyericsson.com)

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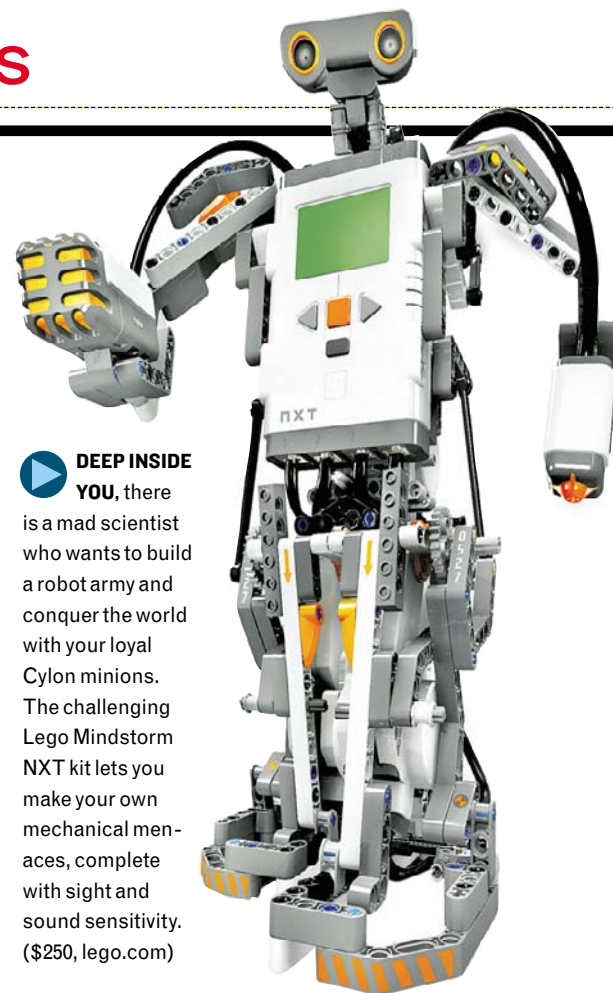
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## Styles | holidays



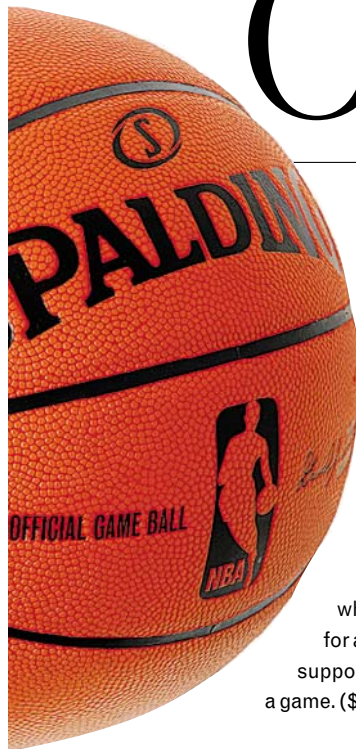
**HIGH-DEF TV SETS? MEH.** All the hardcore techies want HD camcorders. The Canon HV10 is one of the best of the first generation. Particularly helpful is the quick auto-focus feature: HD can be unforgiving, but the HV10 keeps the picture crisp. (\$1,500, usa.canon.com)



**DEEP INSIDE YOU,** there is a mad scientist who wants to build a robot army and conquer the world with your loyal Cylon minions. The challenging Lego Mindstorm NXT kit lets you make your own mechanical men-aces, complete with sight and sound sensitivity. (\$250, lego.com)

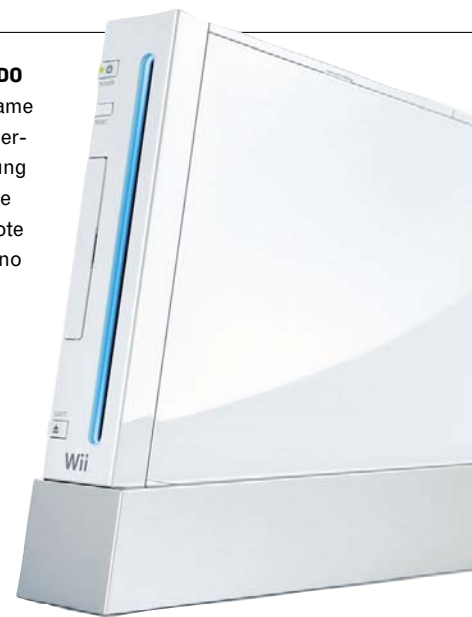
# Game On

Grown-up toys for  
on the court or off



**COULD THE NINTENDO WII** be the biggest game innovation since the first-person shooter? Whether swung like a racquet or a sword, the motion-sensitive Wii Remote gets you into the game like no other controller can. (\$250, wii.nintendo.com)

**THE NBA'S NEW OFFICIAL BALL** is the Spalding Cross Traxxion, which nixes traditional leather for a patented microfiber that's supposed to keep the ball dry during a game. (\$100, spalding.com)



### ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE ►► A PICTURE-PERFECT GIFT



## A Photographic Fantasy

■ The best ticket to a sporting event isn't a fancy box seat. It's a camera. So Washington Photo Workshops (washingtonphotoworkshops.com) gives its participants the chance to shoot at a variety of professional games — Wizards, Caps, Nationals and more — while getting pointers from some of the best in the biz. "They're at the finish line, on the field," said co-founder Jeffrey Snyder, a 30-year veteran of the industry. "And then they'll have these images to hang from their walls."

It requires some pricey equipment, including a high-end digital camera and laptop, and it costs \$3,995 for the eight sessions. But to have one's snapshots critiqued by a Sports Illustrated photo editor? That's priceless. v.h.



**▶ TRANSFORMING MUSIC LESSONS** into a video game might just make tickling the ivories appealing to tykes. "I Can Play Piano" is like Dance Dance Revolution, except the prompts on the screen require players to press keys instead of jump. Change modes to make it like reading music. (\$80, toy stores)



**▶ PROTECT THAT OUTRAGEOUSLY** expensive PSP in the handy front pocket of the Gaming Hoodie Xtreme. The cozy covering (available in four colors) boasts built-in washable speakers in the hood, which connect to whatever you stick in the netting below. (\$33, Target)



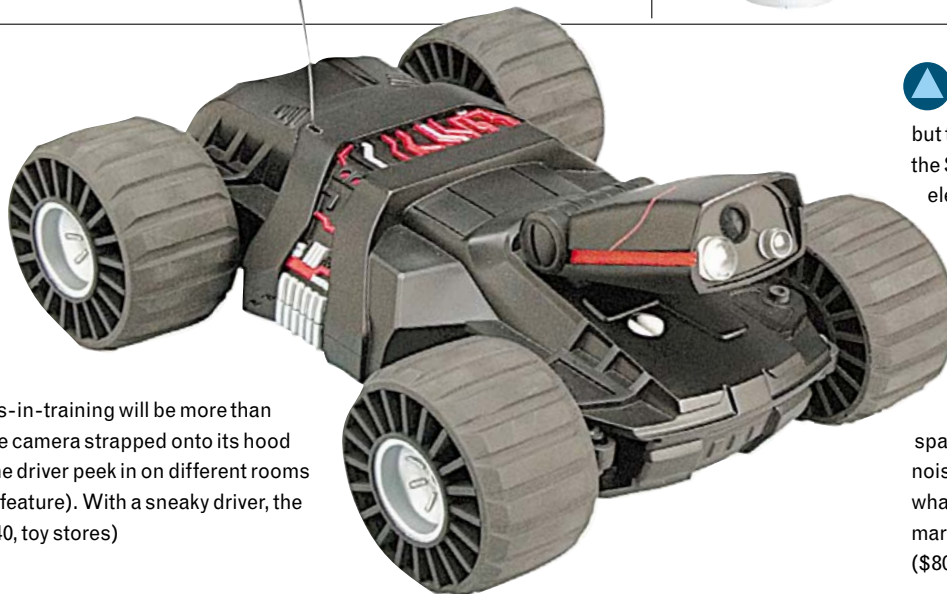
# Play Time

Electrifying youth, one toy at a time



**▶ WHAT'S THE ONLY WAY** to make radio appeal to the young people of today? Let them broadcast their voices over it with the Smart Lab Rock Star Microphone. Kids can choose the music from their CD collection, pick a silent station and sing! (\$25, Barnes and Noble)

**▶ TURNING 16 IS OVERRATED.** Drivers-in-training will be more than content with the Spy Video Car. The camera strapped onto its hood sends images to a set of shades that let the driver peek in on different rooms (even in the dark, thanks to a night-vision feature). With a sneaky driver, the results could be pretty incriminating. (\$140, toy stores)



**▶ DOODLING DOESN'T** require batteries, but the electronic flare of the SparkArt Easel can elevate a mess into a masterpiece. Point the stylus at the included backgrounds, magnets and symbols that line the edge of the drawing space to hear funny noises or get prompts of what to draw. Just put a marker in the other hand. (\$80, toy stores)



## the hot trend



## Dress-Up Of the Future

■ Most tween-age gals are content to braid their dolls' hair and deck themselves out in pastel colors and strands of gaudy costume jewelry. But there's another breed of child out there: the budding fashionista.

For her, start with **DIGI MAKEOVER** (\$40, toy stores). She can snap a picture of herself with the unit and then appear on the TV, ready to be beautified with an array of hairstyles, eye colors, makeup choices and accessories.

The stylus is a bit clunky to work with, but the results are so hilariously fab, it's easy to forgive the slight delays. Plus, didn't she always want to know how she'd look as a brunette? Slumber parties will never be the same.

Once her look is developed, move on to **DESIGNER'S WORLD** (\$40, toy stores), which will teach her to dictate how other people should look.

The plug 'n' play lets budding designers create a fashion line, select models (and switch up their hairstyles), show a collection to judges and then sell garments — all in an imaginary land where you can buy new fabrics out of magazines.

If that's still too low-brow for your Marc Jacobs-obsessed offspring, treat them to one of FAO Schwarz's most extravagant gifts of the season, **CUS-TOM COUTURE** by Imagine This (\$800, fao.com). First, she'll get a portfolio with fabric swatches so she can select a material for her creation and start sketching.

Then she'll work with a designer to iron out the details of the look she's going for. And within eight weeks she'll be able to wear it. Over the top? Yes, but you can't expect your little ones to wait 20 years to get on "Project Runway." v.h.



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## Styles | holidays



**GIVE WRINKLES A ONE-TWO** punch with Givenchy's No Surgetics Collagen Expert. The first allows you to fill in lines; the second is a cream that stimulates the skin's natural collagen production. (\$160, Saks Fifth Avenue, available in January 2007)



**SCIENTISTS STUDIED** snake venom to come up with Z. Bigatti's Rescue Intensive Facial Treatment. It relaxes areas of repetitive movement the way snakes paralyze prey. What? It's no worse than botulinum toxin. (\$135, Nordstrom)

# Future Perfect

Cold fusion and time travel will have to wait. Scientists are too busy making skin care products from snake venom and gold, improving upon the humble scrub brush, and entirely eradicating aging from the human population by 2015. To see the future, just rub this stuff on your face. KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY (EXPRESS)

**THE FOLLOW-UP** to Lip Venom, the best-known (and most painful?) lip plumper, DuWop's 2nd Sin contains essential oils of cinnamon, wintergreen and ginger to give you a pout as succulent as Shiloh's mom's. (\$27, Sephora)



**SCRUB-A-DUB-DUB** with the Clarisonic Skin Care Brush, which buffs faces to smooth, squeaky-clean brilliance. Our sensitive-skinned tester used it once a day and, within a week, skin was clearer and brighter than ever before. (\$195, amazon.com)

**"FOR \$525,** it had better be made of pure gold ... oh, wait. It is." La Prairie's Cellular Radiance Concentrate Pure Gold uses 24-karat gold, quartz and liquid crystals to scatter light off the skin's surface, allegedly making you look younger in a single hour. (\$525, Neiman Marcus)





holidays | **Styles**

**ANTI-KRYPTONITE:** Even that evil baldy Lex Luther would want to have this handsome Superman collection for his media shelf.

# Groupie Gifts

How to please the obsessive buff on your holiday list

**Humans tend** toward fanaticism, which makes it much easier to shop for them than, say, pets. Just pick a media addiction from this list, and forget about scouring the mall.

## SUPERHERO SUPPORTER

→ The "Superman Ultimate Collector's Edition" (\$100, Warner Bros.) captures all of the Man of Steel's films in one shiny DVD box set. You'll get the good ("Superman," "Superman Returns" and Richard Donner's cut of "Superman II"), the bad (the original cut of "Superman II" and "Superman III") and the ugly ("Superman IV: The Quest for Peace"). But there is comfort in completion.

## FILM SNOB

→ It'll take a massive bowl of popcorn to sit through "Essential Art House: 50 Years of Janus Films" (\$850, Criterion Collection). That's 50 movies — by legends like Fellini and Truffaut — packaged in a gorgeous box along with

a 200-page hardcover book filled with essays about the flicks (not that the owner of such a set would need them).

## POST-PUNK ROCKER

→ Wrapped inside a fake corset is the four-disc set "Life Less Lived: The Gothic Box" (\$65, Rhino). Purists may scoff at choices like Flesh for Lulu's poppy "I Go Crazy," but the vast list of broody tunes by the likes of Nick Cave and Dead Can Dance should strike a chord with fans of dark sounds.

## COMIC BOOK GEEK

→ Face front, true believers! From Abomination to Zzzax, the living electromagnetic field, "The Marvel Encyclopedia: The Definitive Guide to the Characters of the Marvel Universe" (\$40, DK) has all the info that the comic book obsessed freak in your life could ever need. Excelsior!

## LOUNGE LIZARD

→ If you have a martini in hand and a comfy sofa to recline on, your soundtrack should be "Sinatra:

Vegas" (\$80, Reprise). You'll get a kick out of the range of live recordings on four discs, from a 1961 session at the Sands Casino to a 1987 set at the Golden Nugget. Guests include Old Blue Eyes' daughter Nancy and Dean Martin. Plus, there's a bonus DVD with footage from a 1978 Caesar's gig.

## WANNABE SPY

→ The world's most famous secret agent man gets his due with the "James Bond Ultimate Collection" (MGM), a set of the series' 20 films lavished with painstaking restoration and awesome sound. The catch? There are four volumes, priced at \$90 each. And, of course, they don't include the new blond Bond. But 007 devotees won't care.

## POLITICAL JUNKIE

→ You've never really read the Constitution until you've gazed at the limited-edition version illustrated and signed by Sam Fink (\$500, Welcome Books). There are only 1,500 copies of this colorful document in existence, so it's sure to impress Hill rats for many administrations to come.

## HIPPIE FREAK

→ The wacky CD/DVD packaging trend continues with "Perception" (\$150, Rhino). It's shaped like an entrance because it contains 12 discs of The Doors — remastered versions of each of their albums plus a DVD. We bet it'll light your aunt's fire. VICKY HALLETT AND SCOTT ROSENBERG (EXPRESS)



**THE CURE:** When wearing all black with clumpy black eyeliner and big black combat boots, one needs appropriate music on one's black iPod.

## mixed media



Not such jolly rogues: A tome on pirates details high-seas misdeeds.

## For Buffs of Stranger Stuff

If your loved one's hobby is knitting, finding a book to give as a gift is a non-issue. People who dress as pirates, not so much. Here, a few ideas for those with less mainstream pastimes.

**WEAPON: A HISTORY OF ARMS AND ARMOR** (\$40, DK) chronicles the weapons of every culture, starting with cave people (pointy rocks!), going through

A pop-up pirate book is an arrgh-fully good gift.

the Middle Ages (pointy metal things!) and into today (things that shoot pointy metal things!). Clear explanations help readers visualize all the stuff humans use to beat the crap out of one another.

**PIRATE SOUL** (\$30, Running Press) takes a child's love of pirates and combines it with a kid's lust for pop-up books. Adult buccaneers will love it, too. History is interspersed with envelopes to open, document replicas to pore over and a real cloth skull-and-bones flag.

Jason King's **THE CANNABIBLE 3** (\$25, Ten Speed Press) is not your parents' coffee table book. Unless your parents grew up in the '60s. Marvel at the lush photographs of hundreds of varieties of chronic. And inscribe the number for Domino's on the flyleaf. FIONA ZUBLIN (EXPRESS)





# Pick of the Glitter

## Party looks to make you an evening star

Step away from the Santa hat, and please stash the snowman sweater. Holiday celebrations, from the office bash to a friend's Hanukkah feast, call for sophisticated style, not kitsch stolen from the Macy's parade. Lace, metallics and big jewelry make looking special especially easy this yuletide season. "You want to stand out," said Katherine Ordway of Capitol Hill boutique Maggie and Lola. "It's about wearing color or something with an attention-getting bow. No little black dresses!" These combos marry nice designs (flattering pants) with naughty touches (plunging necklines), which seems fashionably in tune with the spirit of the season. JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)

### SEMIFORMAL FITTING

**An elegant bash — a yuletide wedding, dinner at Restaurant Eve — merits a ladylike yet lush combo. An emerald velvet dress pairs with a mantilla-esque lace jacket, bow-print pumps and showstopper earrings.**

**EARRINGS** Like a pair of tannenbaum trimmers, Erika Pena's Lucite sparklers light up your face. (\$42, girlshop.com)

**JACKET** A lace bolero adds flamenco flair to cocktail gowns; it can also go over jeans and a tee. (Betsey Johnson, Tysons Galleria, 703-442-3940)

**DRESS** What film femmes like Grace or Audrey might've worn to Bing's shindig: J.Crew's fir-hued frock. (\$148, jcrew.com)

**SHOES** Bow wow: the 1980s redux on leather pumps printed with jewel-tone bows. (\$195, Betsey Johnson)



## 2 POST-CUBICLE CHIC

**An office soiree calls for flashing style, not skimping. Pair sleek velvet pants and funky, chunky accessories with a bossy top to convince her you have a part-time**

**NECKLACE** Lucite and crystal nuggets form a goes-with-anything choker. (\$163, tarinatarantino.com)

**PANTS** Theory's trousers get glam in velvet. (\$255, Barney's Co-Op, 5471 Wisconsin Ave.; 301-634-4069)

**BRACELETS** How can a monogram go mod? As a bangle wrapped in initialed paper. (\$38, anthropologie.com)

**TOP** Striped trim on a turtleneck. (\$228, Saks Fifth Avenue)

**SAN** On display. (\$180, Saks Fifth Avenue)





A swingy top, circles and cool dot should impress gig at Hooters.

Anna Sui merges circles and cool dot on Phyl Couture's T-shirt knit with sequin trim. (\$115, unsungdesigners.com)

ALS Bronze glows queen platforms. (tsey Johnson)



### 3 DINNER PARTY ANIMAL

Heading to a pal's for prime rib or paella? Jeans seem ordinary; a pretty skirt and cozy sequined top say "celebration" without looking like a Disney princess' getup.

**TOP** Comfort meets chic on Phyl Couture's T-shirt knit with sequin trim. (\$115, unsungdesigners.com)

**EARRINGS** J. Lo hoops get Midas-ized. (\$40, South Moon Under, area stores)

**BAG** Like something you might inherit from a Parisian aunt, this pleated fabric purse boasts velvet flowers and a posh tassel. (\$115, Wild Women Wear Red, 1512 U St. NW; 202-387-5700)

**BRACELET** A cool cuff bears a carnelian oval. (\$88, South Moon Under)

**BOOTS** Banish memories of Uggy boots with Corso Como's gold-trimmed wedges. (\$280, Wild Women Wear Red)

**SKIRT** Calypso Christiane Celle, known for its beachy style, goes luxe with a slightly crinkled silk calf sweeper. (\$240, Maggie and Lola, 1013 E St. SE; 202-234-2850)



### 4 PRINCESS LACE

Laura from "Project Runway," Behnaz Sarafpour and countless gals in Brussels know lace's bewitching powers. As a frock, it rocks for a night at the Ken Cen or New Year's Eve.

**NECKLACE** No crown jewels in your treasury? Eda & Betty's crystal teardrop necklace lends a royal flush to even a commoner's neck. (\$150, girlshop.com)

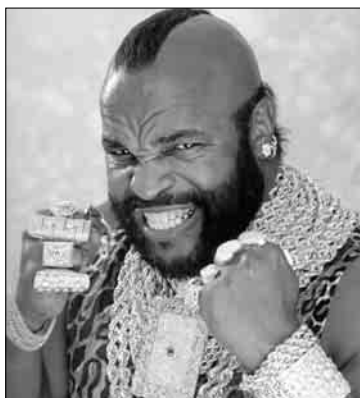
**DRESS** A plunging neckline, ribbon sash and lace overlay lend tres Francais charm to a gown from West Coast label Wyeth by Todd Magill. (\$425, Barney's Co-Op)

**SHOES** Ballet flats, here by Dolce Vita in silver leather, look dreamy with dresses. But they can appear on your fashion marquee with skinny jeans. (\$98, South Moon Under)



# Styles | fashion

## mixed media



Mr. T was an early pioneer of bling.

### BOOKS

## Shiny Happy People

■ There's something deliciously awesome about **BLING: THE HIP-HOP JEWELRY BOOK** by Reggie Osse and Gabriel Tolliver (\$20, Bloomsbury). That it examines the sparkly accoutrements of everyone from Liberace to Biz Markie might be it. It might be page 79, which claims "our blingsters ... definitely love Jesus," showing heavy metal religious icons on the necks of Ja Rule, Kanye West and Ma\$. Or it could be the profile of Eddie's Gold Teeth in Atlanta, complete with a photo that proves skinny white guys look ridiculous with tooth grills. KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY (EXPRESS)

### BOOKS

## Copycat Cool

■ Stalking celebs is evil, but imitating how they dress is good. The premise behind *InStyle* magazine also courses through **INSTYLE INSTANT STYLE** (\$30). With glam shots of Jessica, Cameron, et al, the book details how you can flatter your Queen Latifah-ish butt or be a Jen Aniston clone in jeans and a blazer. But the clothes shown look a season out of date, so we question how in style it really is. JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)

### BOOKS

## What Lies Beneath

Rebecca Apsan's **THE LINGERIE HANDBOOK** (\$14, Workman) teaches you everything you could possibly want to know about little silky naughty things. From fit to a glossary of different types of bras (Quick: What's the difference between a balconette and a demi-cup?) to explorations of the wonders of shape-wear, the book is certainly knowledgeable about what's up down below. K.P.K.



MICHELLE REPIZO/EXPRESS

# A Hipster Messiah?

## Redeem

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With its rock 'n' roly jeans, Franz Ferdinand-slim jackets and logo tees, the latest fashion boutique on 14th Street looks a little like the closet of recent "Project Runway" winner Jeffrey Sebelia. An urban, edgy addition to the stylish retail zone that includes Muleh and Pop,

this guys-and-gals newbie moves to a decidedly different fashion beat with scarce left coast and Canadian brands like Bodybag by Jude and Barking Irons.

**STYLE:** Downtown hipsters and 9:30 Clubbers, say yeah! Washingtonian Lori Parkerson, craving little labels from big cities (Montreal, LA, NYC) created a trove of hard-to-find stuff.

Think elusive labels like Brit fave Religion and California menswear comer Endovanera.

Tattoo-style tees, Earnest Sewn skinny jeans and Bodybag's gray pinstripe bubble skirt with a crown decal would work in creative offices or at any concert venue except maybe the Kennedy Center.

With its exposed brick walls, are-we-on-Melrose Ave.? murals

### Mystery Shopper

## GARB AROUND THE GLOBE ►► IN EUROPE WITH OUR FORMER INTERN

# Netherlands Hot

■ Thinking outside of the box is said to have great results, such as creativity, uniqueness, the ensuing admiration, etc. But how does one escape the "box" of the Daily Dress Doldrums? Many young Europeans seem to have a knack for regularly dressing in a way that defies the expected and rebels against convention.

Marinella is a student in Maastricht — a city in the southern tip of the Netherlands, sandwiched between Belgium and Germany — and from the looks of her innovative outfit, she is very much de-boxed. For her morning trip to the market, she rocks a loose-fitting, blue linen shirt, cinched at the empire waist with a vintage white leather belt (not

pictured here), over a pair of black leggings. Her black-and-brown knit scarf pulls the look together, and she polishes the outfit with a pair of black wedge boots (not pictured).

Marinella has successfully bent three maxims of dress:

**1** Cold weather equals dressing like you're wrapped in a down comforter. Marinella's layers and thicker leggings (instead of tights) keeps her warm sans the marshmallow jacket.

**2** Brown, black and blue equals no. This outfit combines the three colors very successfully because these specific hues are varied enough in tone that



MAYA SILVER

Racking up the hits: I'm-with-the-band cool clothes at 14th Street's Redeem.

(a Gothic church-worthy lamb) and indie-rock soundtrack, Redeem could be an East Village or West Hollywood lounge. But sweet, homey touches — distressed wood dressing room doors, flower-filled bud vases and a curvy, louche sofa — keep the joint from feeling too much like the Killers are about to play a set here.

**SERVICE:** Though these casual styles seem angled at grown-up cool kids, no one here will puff on a clove cigarette and roll their eyes if you come in wearing jeans bought at the mall. Laid-back sales associates seemed happy to ferry sizes to the dressing room or explain how to wear items like a tunic that seemed to have four armholes.

**PRICE:** Most items fall in the \$50 to \$300 range.

**MINUS POINTS:** Keeping with the underground vibe, Redeem has a smallish sign, making it a bit hard to spot.

**BUREAUCRACY:** Refunds for 30 days with receipt.

**BOTTOM LINE:** Finally, the clothes you need to join a band, or at least hang with one. You may never feel cool, but these styles mean you can look it.

they don't muddle together. Remember that the Land of Color No-Nos is full of exceptions.

**3** Shirts equals shirts. Marinella demonstrates that constricting the use of an article of clothing to its traditional form is very silly. Remember that irony is your friend. A shirt is not a dress, but you can wear it as a dress. A "Mister Rogers"-esque sweater can be a funky, young find. Time to raid Grandpa's wardrobe!

→ To recapture the look, check out urbanoutfitters.com and snag the Free People Drop Waist Boy Shirt (\$78), the Damsel Slip Cropped Leggings (\$24) and the Lux Crinkle Ribbed Cardigan (\$38). Also, try slipping your feet into Mossimo's Glory Mid-Shaft Low-Wedge Boots (\$30) at target.com. MAYA SILVER



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The author's friends chase their soup with wine; above, a bowl of clam chowder turned orange when stirred with the spoon from the squash soup. Beware errant utensils!

# Eat Soup, Glorious Soup

Grab a spoon, bring your own bowl and drink in this soiree

I can't ski. I've never liked being cold. When I was a kid, my favorite part of sledding was going home. To say winter is my least favorite season is an understatement.

But even I can find a few redeeming qualities in this barren time of year. At the top of that

short list is soup. One night, over a few steaming bowls of yellow pepper stew, my friend Amy and I came up with a plan for a soup party. Here's what we learned about serving the ultimate liquid lunch:

**Menu:** The right selection is the heart of any soup shindig, said Ben Thomas, a Brooklynite whose dad's been throwing them for eight years. Last month, Thomas and his wife gave the tradition a try in their own home.

**Steal My Party**

"It's pretty essential to have a brothy one, a hearty one — for people who don't think soup is a meal — one with meat or chicken and a vegetarian one." Though perhaps not as interesting as the African peanut soup his family makes, chili is a reliable crowd favorite, he said.

With two pots cooked up by my soup-savvy friends, we offered a total of five choices: white corn tortilla soup, New England clam chowder, tomato bisque, butter-

nut squash and leek, and Filipino chicken and rice.

**Carbs:** Behind every good soup is a loaf of crusty bread. Like wine and cheese, different breads complement different soups, said Ned Atwater, owner of Atwater's soup shops in the Baltimore region. Tomato-based soups, for example, can be on the sour side, so serve "yeasted bread like a ciabatta or a country white," instead of sourdough, he said. "Whole-grain bread is great with vegetarian soups — and not only in taste," he added. A whole-grain bread can complete

the protein in, say, a lentil soup.

**Fixins:** At Atwater's, each soup has its own individual garnish; so should it be at a soup party. Rice, pasta, fresh herbs and cheese are common ones. Thomas and his wife slathered goat cheese onto thin baguette slices and baked them into cheesy croutons.

**Timing:** This hostess was still cooking when her first guests arrived, but it doesn't have to be that way. Soups can be easily made in advance, leaving critical moments free for preparing garnishes.

**Serving:** Watch out for spoon contamination! With so many pots on the stove, I mixed up my stirring implements, giving the white clam chowder the orange hue of the butternut squash. (A friend called it "Connecticut Clam Chowder" — a cross between New England white and Manhattan red.) It tasted fine, but had there been vegetarians present, I would have felt awful contaminating the veggie soup.

**Label:** As each new guest arrived, I had to explain what was in each pot so they could ferret out any food restrictions before the first bite. Since this afternoon party was a small affair, it was actually a fun way to introduce everyone to the festivities, but for larger parties, small signs next to each pot would help.

**Bowls:** I was just barely able to outfit my 16 guests with bowls. (If you come up short on spoons, though, just tell guests not to be shy about slurping.) If you're expecting more guests than your china pattern allows, tell everyone that the BYOB at this soiree stands for bring your own bowl. JULIA BEIZER

bash in a  
**flash**

## Washing Me, Washing You

■ At the beginning of December, you can unleash your inner St. Nick and clean out your savings account, or you can unleash your inner Howard Hughes and clean off your germ-infested hands. The first week of December is National Hand Washing Awareness Week, a time to remember that a hot and soapy scrub is the best protec-



tion against colds and the flu, though keeping your fingers out of your nose doesn't hurt either.

The best way to celebrate hand washing is to give people a reason to do it, so plan your party menu around messy finger foods like bar-

beque. Willard's Real Pit Barbeque in Chantilly can cater your affair with its hot Carolina-style ribs (\$20 per rack, 703-480-9970), ensuring that all your guests have to wash multiple times.

Try offering a menu of unique soap options to encourage cleansing. Lush's Champagne Snow Shower Jelly (\$5.75, [usa.lush.com](http://usa.lush.com)) puts a little wiggle in your wash. Or make sure your guests aren't doing the wet-and-shake with Squid Soap, which marks hands with "ink" that won't go away until 20 seconds of washing have elapsed (\$16 for four, [squidsoap.com](http://squidsoap.com)).

Download decorations at the official Hand Washing Awareness Week Web site ([henrythehand.com](http://henrythehand.com)). There's even an MP3 file to which you can get down and dirty. JAMIE PAGE DEATON

## drink special

### Voodoo Lady

- 8 oz. milk (whole or soy)
- 2 oz. chai concentrate
- 1 oz. Myers dark rum
- 1/2 oz. Kahlua

**Warm a mug.** Heat the milk on medium-low to 165 degrees. Stir in chai concentrate (they use Pacific Vanilla powder) and remove from heat. Add rum and Kahlua. Top with chai and serve with animal crackers.

BY DAVID FRITZLER, COFFEE AND BEVERAGE OPERATIONS MANAGER FOR TRYST, OPEN CITY AND THE DINER





# entertaining | Styles



Latkes taste just as festive when you cook them before a party and then reheat.

## Simple Holiday Menus

I am hosting an event in mid-December that I am billing as a "holiday" party. My co-host just got back from Jordan, where she fell in love with the pistachio, phyllo and honey pastries they make there. I would like to get a tray for the party, but don't know where to buy them. For the pastries, I'd try Mediterranean Bakery in Alexandria, not far from Landmark Mall — not a real stretch if you live in Vienna. It's not just a bakery but a food store with a wide range of products, most (but not all) Middle Eastern.

I'm hosting a Hanukkah gathering this year. Given that the traditional way of frying and eating latkes immediately would keep me in the kitchen all evening, is it possible to cook latkes ahead and keep warm in the oven so that they still taste good and fresh? And any suggestions for app veggies that fit in? You can cook ahead and reheat. Don't let them get too brown when you cook them. Reheat at 350 F until warm, then blot off any excess oil with paper towels before serving. You can even freeze if you need to. As for extras/app veggies, I don't

think this is the time to worry about a square meal. How about sticking with traditional favorites, fish salads, chopped liver and the like — presented as canapes to look more contemporary? Whitefish on pumpernickel rounds, chopped liver on challah squares. You get the idea.

**I would like to entertain using some prepared food. I just don't know where to start. What is a good combination of foods without getting too pricey?**

If I wanted to go to Whole Foods, I might call ahead and have them make a lasagne sized just for a crowd. Next I'd go to the salad bar and load up there. For simple hors d'oeuvres, buy marcona almonds; pick up some prosciutto or serrano ham and thin Italian breadsticks and wrap the ham around the sticks, leaving some plain for the kids; and then to the olive bar. For dessert, I'd get bar cookies. On your way out, pick up some cut up fruit.

For a wholesale club: I'd go right to the freezer and pick a nice ravioli and sauce that I could cook myself. Into the refrigerator there for baby greens, etc. — that's my salad. For hors d'oeuvres — raid the freezer again. Dessert would be fresh fruit and whatever they're featuring that I've gotten to taste. Their seasonal stuff can be surprisingly good, but you'll want to make sure.



The staff of the Washington Post Food section goes Free Range on Food every Wednesday at 1 p.m. at [washingtonpost.com/liveonline](http://washingtonpost.com/liveonline). Catch up on recipes, cooking trends and more.

**Free Range on Food**

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## Georgetown BID

# Holiday Planner

December 1 through December 7, 2006

### December 1

**Kiehl's Shop to Stop Aids**  
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
3110 M Street, NW

Shop at Kiehl's to stop youth AIDS on December 1, World AIDS Day. 100% of all proceeds will be donated directly to the YouthAIDS charity. (202) 333-5101

### December 1

**Parish Gallery**  
**Werner Kohn's Opening Reception**  
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
1054 31st Street, NW

Don't miss the opening reception for photographer Werner Kohn. The exhibit will feature 100 photographs on Jazz musicians from 1959 to present. (202) 944-2310

### December 1 & 2

**Hitched**  
**Kenneth Pool Trunk Show**  
By Appointment Only  
1523 Wisconsin Avenue, NW

Join Hitched for their Kenneth Pool Trunk Show where designer Austin Scarlet, of Project Runway fame, will showcase his new bridal collection. (202) 333-6162

### December 1 & 2

**Tudor Place**  
**Wreathmaking Workshop**  
December 1: 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.  
or 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.,  
December 2: 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.  
1644 31st Street, NW

Bring your own creative edge and fashion a holiday wreath with greens from the Tudor Place garden. \$28 for members, \$35 for non-members. (202) 965-0400

### Every Saturday and Sunday Throughout December

**The Ritz-Carlton Holiday Tea**  
1:00 to 2:30 p.m.  
3100 South Street, NW

Spend the afternoon in the lobby lounge during the month of December. Children will enjoy holiday tales and treats while adults can relax with a traditional selection of gourmet teas and pastries. (202) 912-4100

### December 4 & 11

**Proper Topper**  
**Stocking Stuffers' Delight**  
10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
3213 P Street, NW

Take advantage of Stocking Stuffers' Delight, featuring a gift-with-purchase and free gift basket for every \$100 spent. (202) 333-6200

### December 5

**Wink's 30% Off Sale**  
3109 M Street, NW

Don't miss your chance to get amazing holiday deals at one of Georgetown's favorite boutiques. One day only! Shoppers must present Holiday Planner for discount. (202) 338-9465

### December 5

**Design Within Reach**  
**2006 Beaujolais Nouveau Tasting & Book Signing**  
7:00 p.m.  
3307 Cady's Alley, NW

Authors of "Drinkology EATS: A Guide to Bar Food and Cocktail Party Fare," James Waller and Ramona Ponce, a Manhattan-based food stylist, will lead a tasting of the just-released 2006 Beaujolais Nouveau. They will offer advice on planning a holiday-time wine or cocktail party, and sign copies of their new book. (202) 339-9480

### December 6

**Bluemercury**  
**Holiday Shopping Night**  
4:00 to 10:00 p.m.  
3059 M Street, NW

Experts from their exceptional collections of beauty products and bath items will be on hand to help you select the perfect gift. Enjoy 10% off purchases over \$100, 15% off purchases over \$175, and 20% off purchases over \$250. (202) 965-1300

### December 6

**Bank of Georgetown**  
**Peppermint Sticks & Hot Cocoa**  
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
1001 Wisconsin Avenue, NW

Stop by the Bank of Georgetown, on the corner of Wisconsin Avenue and K Street, for hot cocoa and the chance to win a fabulous holiday gift basket. (202) 965-1717

**For a complete guide to more than 75 holiday events and promotions visit [GeorgetownDC.com](http://GeorgetownDC.com) or call (202) 298-9222 to receive your copy of Georgetown's Holiday Planner.**

**GeorgetownDC.com**





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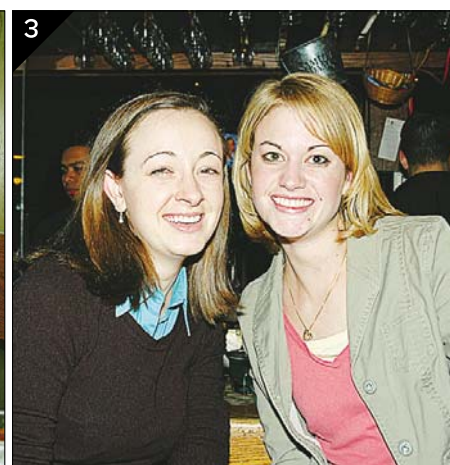
# out there

SEEKING ANSWERS ON THE TOWN

**Q** When does the holiday season truly begin?

THE FRONT PAGE | DUPONT CIRCLE | NOV. 27

**1.** "When I saw the ChristmasLights.com van parked out front," Alissa Levine. **"When Starbucks puts out their cups with the snowflakes,"** Matt Crossley. **2.** "You start realizing you're in debt," Katie Douglas. **3.** "Eggnog is on sale at the liquor store," Christina Fischer, right, with Rachel Nagle. **4.** "When they start playing crazy commercials," Katie Dieter, left, with Katie Hollencamp. **5.** "Christmas Muzak in the bathrooms," Rachel Summers, right, with Sam Burch. **6.** "Your mother wakes you up at 5 a.m. the day after Thanksgiving," Jason Jackson. **"When you buy too much for yourself and not enough for others,"** Candice Clawson. **7.** "When I start going to parties left and right," Dayana Rassias. **"When the bars get busy,"** Elias Castaneda. **8.** "When your credit card debt reaches five figures," John Nullmeyer. **"When the in-laws ask what your S.O. wants for Christmas,"** Rhonda Kauffman, center. **"When everyone in the family starts staring at your ring finger,"** Susan Nullmeyer. **9.** "You hear the Charlie Brown theme song at restaurants," Scott Nyitay. **"Starbucks,"** Megan Coluccio. **10.** "When Bill O'Reilly starts the war on Christmas," Mike Harmon. **"Definitely Starbucks,"** Erin Gregory. **11.** "When people start trampling each other in the parking lot," Mike Dyer. MINA PAHLEVAN



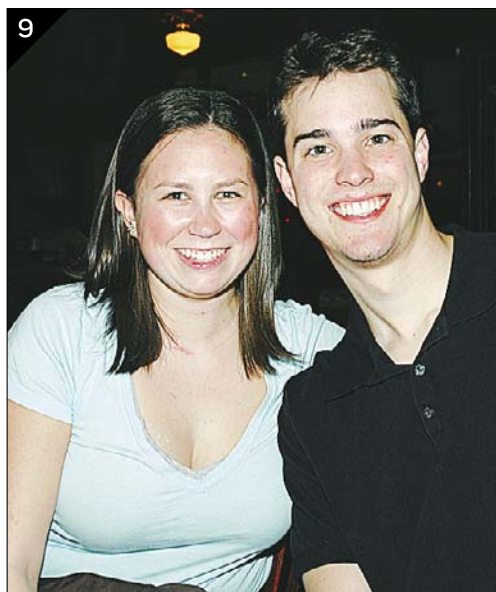
↑ "When Starbucks puts out their cups with the snowflakes."



← "Your mom wakes you at 5 a.m. the day after Thanksgiving."



↑ "When everyone in the family starts staring at your ring finger."



↑ "When Bill O'Reilly starts the war on Christmas."





# B.I.O.

✱ BY INVITATION ONLY: UPCOMING WEDDINGS & UNIONS



## Colin Dew, Lauren Grady

Colin, 26, is a program analyst for the D.C. attorney general's office, Child Support Division. Lauren, 23, is an executive assistant for BATTELLE Office of Homeland Security. They live in Temple Hills.

- **The Main Event:** A black-tie ceremony for 400 people, followed by a smaller reception for family and close friends on Aug. 4 in Washington.
- **How They Met:** Lauren worked at the Ritz Camera on L Street; Colin worked four doors down at Starbucks. One day, she ordered a white-chocolate mocha.

"The next five people after me ordered the same thing!" said Lauren. "When Colin handed me my drink, he said, 'See what you started?'"

■ **First Impressions:** "When I first heard her voice, I was caught," said Colin. "I thought she had a very distinctive voice and it gave me chills."

■ **First Date:** Dinner at Maggiano's.

■ **How He Proposed:** At the Eleanor Roosevelt statue at the FDR Memorial. "As an added romantic touch, he walked me over to a fountain, and we both bent down," said Lauren. "He grabbed my hand, dipped our hands in the water and named that our fountain."

■ **Dress:** A customized Winnie Couture gown adorned with Swarovski crystals.

■ **Wedding Jitters:** "I don't fear anything my God has a hand in, so nothing," said Colin.

"We both couldn't see life without each other," said Colin.



## Alaina Epperson, Jason Shonkwiler

Alaina, 23, is a budget analyst with the Corporation for National and Community Service. Jason, 26, is a sergeant in the U.S. Army. They live in Oakton.

■ **The Main Event:** The formal Methodist ceremony was held Nov. 25 in Noblesville, Ind., followed by a reception for 225 guests.

■ **How They Met:** In elementary school. "He was the hot older brother of my friend," said Alaina. Later, when Jason joined the Army, he visited Alaina's mom's third-grade class. Mom gave him Alaina's number.

■ **How He Proposed:** "Jason wanted to go into the city to see the monuments at sunset," said Alaina. She wanted to change clothes, but he didn't let her — so when he popped the question at the World War II Memorial, she was sporting an "I Heart Nerds" T-shirt.

■ **Their Song:** "Little Moments" by Brad Paisley. "The first line is 'I'll never forget the first time that I heard that pretty mouth say that dirty word.' I thought she was prim and proper and she swore and it surprised me," said Jason.

■ **Most Hated Clothing Item:** "All of her clothes are cute," said Jason. "I just wish there weren't so many."

■ **Making it Unique:** "Since Jason just got back from Iraq, I think we're all looking at this as a celebration of his return and a pseudo-family reunion."

## Shore to Be Love

Ah, work: giver of money, provider of high-speed Internet, and place where that lost number of the guy you met can fall right into your lap. Such is the case with **SARA EASTER** and **KEVIN KIRNER**, at least.

The pair met at a bar on the Jersey Shore and "we were supposed to meet up the next day, but I lost his phone number," said Sara. "A few weeks later, while talking to a co-worker, I figured out that she actually had transferred from the hotel where he worked." Sara got Kevin's e-mail address, and they pursued a long-distance relationship until Kevin moved to the area a year later. "We went back to the Jersey shore this past Memorial Day weekend, three years to the weekend we met there," said Kevin. "I proposed on the beach at sunset."

Sara, 26, is a pharmaceutical sales representative with Wyeth Pharmaceuticals. Kevin, 27, is an accountant with Kimpton Hotels. They live in Bethesda and will marry June 16 in Hamilton, N.J.



**Getting Married?** If you'd like to see your wedding or commitment ceremony in B.I.O., send your favorite informal photograph (wacky is fine, but please don't send a formal engagement shot), plus your names, contact information and the ceremony date to [weddings@readexpress.com](mailto:weddings@readexpress.com). We'll contact you with some questions as your big day approaches.

## WEDDINGS WANTED

Here's our holiday gift to you: Due to the fall/winter wedding slow-down, you won't have to wait weeks or months to be featured if you submit now. Don't worry if your nuptials are months away — that's not a problem. Just send an e-mail to [weddings@readexpress.com](mailto:weddings@readexpress.com) to get the ball rolling.

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A black and white photograph of a train at night. The train is dark, but its windows are illuminated from within, showing silhouettes of passengers. The train is positioned in front of a large, arched structure with a ribbed, metallic appearance, possibly a tunnel entrance or a large station canopy. The scene is dark, with the primary light sources being the train's interior lights and some ambient light reflecting off the structure. Overlaid on the bottom half of the image is the text "RAPID TRANSMIT" in a large, bold, italicized, sans-serif font. The word "RAPID" is on the top line, and "TRANSMIT" is on the bottom line, both in all caps.

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**Arlington** \$375,000  
No car needed for this Condo! Metro, shopping, city convenience, garage parking, W/D in unit, new carpet & paint & enjoy large balcony. Call for tour!  
**Claudette Schwartz** 703.309.4663  
**McLean DM Ofc.** 703.760.8880



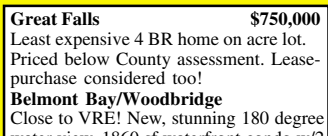
**Arlington/Rosslyn** \$349,000  
Mins to Metro, DC! 1BR, 1BA. New carpet & HVAC. Recent HWH & lighting. Lg balcony. 1 gar space. 1 year home warranty & "Atrium" amenities.  
**Nancy Kane** 703.966.3381



**Falls Church/McLean** \$449,500  
Incredible Value! 3 BR, 1 FBA, sun-screened porch, hdwds, FP. New double pane windows & frig. Freshly painted. Fantastic 1/4 acre lot ideal for expansion! Near WFC Metro & shops!  
**Tatiana** 571.216.1028



**Fredericksburg** \$494,777  
Lovely home on cul-de-sac. Large front porch. In-law suite. Vinyl privacy fence. New deck leads to gourmet kit. Cherry cabs, crown molding, cathedral ceilings & stone FP.  
**Angie Corlett** 540.220.4909



**Great Falls** \$750,000  
Least expensive 4 BR home on acre lot. Priced below County assessment. Lease-purchase considered too!  
**Belmont Bay/Woodbridge**  
Close to VRE! New, stunning 180 degree water view, 1860 sf waterfront condo w/2 car garage, low condo fee. Priced way below market by out of town owner.  
**Brandywine/PG** \$255,000  
5 ac lot in dev area. 4+BR septic. Great price for custom home site w/privacy.  
**Pat or Jim** 703.893.9811



**Manassas Park** \$344,900  
Spacious Cape Cod! Renovated 3 BR, 2FBA w/new hdwds, Berber & baths. 13x20' covered back porch patio. Full sized W/D. Up to 10K in closing assist.  
**Joe Toth** 703.798.4866



**Oakton** \$304,900  
REDUCED \$15,000  
Updated/upgraded 2BR condo. Close to Metro, Rt 66, Rt 123 & bus. 1000sf. Hdwd Pergo flrs, FP. Priv fncd patio w/garden. Great value!  
**Kathe King** 703.966.7573



**Ruther Glen** \$325,000  
Arched entry 6 panel door w/side lights & transom 17' high foyer main lvl w/ bamboo wood floors. Great rm, gas FP. Hickory cabs in kitchen. Fenced rear yd.  
**Angie Corlett** 540.220.4909



**Sterling** \$424,900  
Perfect for all seasons! Glass enclosed front porch! 1 lvl living renovated. 4 BR, 2 FBA, w/new hdwds & Berber. Renovated kit w/granite & new appls. Huge yd. Up to 10K in closing assist.  
**Lekan Adesioye** 202.309.4029

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